Rev. 2/19/91 (Blue)
Rev. 2/27/91 (Pink)
Rev. 3/09/91 (Yellow)
Rev. 3/15/91 (Green)
Rev. 4/01/91 (Buff)
Rev. 4/05/91 (Salmon)
Rev. 4/10/91 (Cherry)
Rev. 4/12/91 (Tan)
Rev. 4/16/91 (Blue)
Rev. 4/17/91 (Pink)
Rev. 4/24/91 (Yellow)
Rev. 4/30/91 (Green)
Rev. 5/07/91 (Buff)
Rev. 5/23/91 (Salmon)
Rev. 6/03/91 (Cherry)
Rev. 6/07/91 (Blue)
Rev. 6/12/91 (Pink)
Rev. 6/14/91 (Yellow)
Rev. 6/24/91 (Green)

DENNY

STAR TREK VI

screenplay by

Nicholas Meyer & Denny Martin Flinn

story by

Leonard Nimoy & Nicholas Meyer

012

FIFTH DRAFT
12/28/90
(Incl. Revisions:
1/10,21, 2/6/91)

1 VFX STARFIELD 1 VFX

Credits OVER serene space when SUDDENLY...

an enormous EXPLOSION, sending debris FLYING at WARP velocities...

2 VFX OMITTED 2 VFX

3 CU A TEACUP 3

WIDEN TO REVEAL

INT. BRIDGE, USS EXCELSIOR

The polyglot CREW is busy.

Seated in the CAPTAIN'S CHAIR a familiar face: SULU. He has his own command and is drinking a CUP of tea.

The SCIENCE OFFICER stands next to him, conferring, handing him a datacount. Sulu muses over the contents.

SULU
According to this we've completed our exploration of the entire sector.

SCIENCE OFFICER
Fifty-four planets - and their gaseous atmospheric anomalies. Our sensing and analytic equipment worked really well.

SULU
'time we were heading home. Three years is...

The ship starts to TREMBLE.

4 ANGLE ON SULU'S TEA CUP 4

shaking in its saucer... Sulu and the CREW look at each other as the SHAKING increases. The TEACUP SMASHES.

SCIENCE OFFICER
I have an energy wave from 240 degrees mark six port --

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 4

SULU
Visual!

4 ON THE SCREEN 4
VFX VFX

an ENORMOUS GASEOUS WAVE, a subspace shock front.

SULU
(continuing)
My God. SHIELDS.

* THE WHOLE SHIP GOES RED EMERGENCY LIGHT. *

5 EXT. THE GALAXY 5
VFX VFX

Meteors and asteroids SMASHING PAST. Burning chunks fly by at WARP speeds. EXCELSIOR reels.

6 INT. USS EXCELSIOR BRIDGE 6

The ship rolls, throwing everyone off balance.

SULU
What the Hell is going on?

The crew jumps to. Computers light up. Information flies across screens and monitors. The ship is BATTERED like a fighter's punching bag with shocks and jolts and tremors.

7 INT. CREW'S QUARTERS, GALLEY, CORRIDORS, ETC. 7

Sleeping members are thrown from their berths. The CLAXON alarm sounds pervasively...

CREW etc.
What the -- Look out -- stations -- etc.

8 INT. EXCELSIOR BRIDGE 8

LOJUR
Captain, she's not answering her helm --

SULU
Starboard thrusters. Turn her into the wave!

9 INT. EXCELSIOR ENGINE ROOM 9

Chaos. Valves hiss PURPLE. Crew running, knocked about. RED EMERGENCY LIGHT. *

ENGINEER
Engine room. What's going on up -

10 INT. EXCELSIOR BRIDGE 10

SULU
Quarter impulse power!

EXCELSIOR has been knocked about and everyone on the bridge is holding on or sliding around. She settles and one by one her CREW resume their stations.

SULU
Damage report.

* RESUME NORMAL LIGHTING. *

VOICE
Seem to be in one piece, Captain. We're checking all systems...

10 VFXA THE SCREEN 10 VFXA

shows Excelsior getting bumped about by the final fragments drifting past, bouncing off the shields.

SULU
(to Science Officer)
Don't tell me that was any meteor shower.

SCIENCE OFFICER
(over his console)
Negative. The subspace shock wave originated at bearing three-two-three, mark seven-five, the location of...
(turns to Sulu)
Praxis. A Klingon moon. Barren of indigenous life forms but -

SULU
Essential as a resource. Praxis is their key energy production facility.
(thinks)
Send to Klingon High Command: "This is Excelsior, a Federation Starship traveling through Beta Quadrant. We have monitored a large explosion in your sector. Do you require assistance?"

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Aye, sir.

SULU
Mr. Valtane, any more data?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 10

SCIENCE OFFICER
I have confirmed the location, sir, but...

SULU
What is it?

SCIENCE OFFICER
... I cannot confirm the existence of Praxis.

Sulu reacts, goes over to the science console and looks at the screen. Nothing there.

SULU
Magnify.

The Science Officer hits the buttons.

10 ON THE SCREEN 10
VFXB VFXB

a barren moon with three-fourths of its mass blown away drifts lifelessly in a black void.

SULU
Praxis?

SCIENCE OFFICER
What's left of it.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Captain, I'm getting a message from Klingon High Command.

SULU
Onscreen.

11 ON SCREEN: 11

a snowy picture of a WILD-EYED KLINGON OFFICER.

OFFICER
This is an emergency! We have suffered -

He looks around, the GROUND is shaking under him; as Sulu watches, the pictures collapses, then comes on again, with a different face.

KERLA
This is Brigadier Kerla, speaking for the High Command.
(CONT'D)

11 CONTINUED: 11

KERLA (CONT'D)
There HAS been an incident on Praxis. However everything is under control. We have no need for assistance. Obey treaty stipulations and remain outside the Neutral Zone. Transmission ends now.

12 The screen goes black. Sulu looks incredulous. 12

SULU
An INCIDENT??

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Do we report this, sir?

SULU
Are you kidding?
(swivels to the communications officer)
Send to Starfleet Command...

13 VFX EXT. SPACE 13 VFX
EXCELSIOR warps off into the galaxy.

14 THRU 22 OMITTED 14 THRU 22

22A CU STARFLEET SHIELD 22A

Kirk walks into shot

KIRK
What are we doing here?

WIDEN TO REVEAL

23 INT. STARFLEET BRIEFING ROOM - DAY 23

* The room fills with BEMEDALED BRASS, Kirk's CREW among them. They can't help looking at each other, questioning. *

BONES
* Maybe they're throwing us a retirement party. *

SCOTTY
* That suits me. I just bought a boat. *

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: 23

UHURA
This better be good. I'm supposed to be chairing a seminar at the Academy...

CHEKOV
Captain, isn't this just for top brass?

BONES
And if we're all here, where's Sulu?

KIRK
Captain Sulu...on assignment... anyone seen Spock?

No answer. A door opens and a STARFLEET ADC, austere and impressive, enters and gavels the meeting to order.

ADC
This briefing is classified. There will be no recording devices. Ladies and Gentlemen, the C-in-C.

All rise as the STARFLEET COMMANDER IN CHIEF enters with a briefcase and pulls materials from it.

CinC
As you were. I'll make this as simple as possible. The Klingon empire has roughly fifty years of life left to it.

People look at one another in disbelief.

CinC
(continuing)
For full details, I am turning this briefing over to our Special Federation Envoy.

A SILHOUETTE at the back of the room: SPOCK. He walks to the podium. Kirk and company are astounded.

SPOCK
Good morning. Two months ago a Federation Starship monitored an explosion on the Klingon moon Praxis. We believe it was caused by overmining and insufficient safety precautions.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: 23

SPOCK (CONT'D)
The moon's decimation means an almost eighty percent loss of available energy and a deadly pollution of their ozone. They will have depleted their supply of oxygen in less than fifty earth years. Due to their enormous military budget the Klingon economy does not have the resources with which to combat this catastrophe. Last month - at the behest of the, uh, Vulcan Ambassador - I opened a dialogue with Gorkon, Chancellor of the Klingon High Council. He proposes to commence negotiations at once.

ADMIRAL DONALD
Negotiations for what?

SPOCK
The dismantling of our space stations and star bases along the Neutral Zone; an end to seventy years of unremitting hostility - which the Klingons can no longer afford.

Audible mutterings. PAN the crew. Is the war over?

SPOCK
(continuing)
If the Klingons sue for peace, we could accumulate savings in defense expenditures, leaving the Federation economy free to grapple with urgent social problems...

A MILITARY MAN
Bill, are we talking about mothballing the Starfleet?

CinC
I'm sure our exploration and science programs would not be affected, but the facts speak for themselves, Captain.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: 23

ADMIRAL DONALD
I must protest. To offer the Klingons a safe haven within Federation space is suicide. Klingons would become the alien trash of the Galaxy. And if we dismantle the fleet, we'd be defenseless before an aggressive species with a foothold on our territory, led by an unprincipled tyrant. The opportunity HERE is to embargo trading, force them to run through their own resources faster, and bring them to their knees. Then we'll be in a far better position to dictate terms.

A vocal minority of the briefing supports this, but not all. Kirk simply stares at Spock.

CinC
Starfleet is under civilian control, Admiral. The decision is a political not a military one - and it's been made.

KIRK
Sir -

CinC
Captain Kirk?

KIRK
Sir, I'm no diplomat, but the Klingons have never been trustworthy. I'm forced to agree with Admiral Donald. This is -
(he gropes for tact)
- a terrible, a terrifying idea...

The Admiral whispers to the CinC.

CinC
Your son was killed by a Klingon, wasn't he, Captain?

KIRK
Yes, sir.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: 23

CinC
I'm sorry. But Commander Spock has persuaded the Federation that this situation is too promising to ignore.

SPOCK
It is imperative that we act NOW to support the Gorkon initiative, lest more conservative elements persuade his empire that it would be better to attempt a military solution and die fighting.

CinC
Captain Kirk, you are to be our first olive branch.

KIRK
Me?

SPOCK
We have volunteered to rendezvous with the Klingon ship that's bringing Chancellor Gorkon here, and escort him safely through Federation space.

Kirk is too startled to speak.

CinC
As it happens, Kirk, the Chancellor specifically requested you and your officers.

KIRK
Why, in God's name?

CinC
There are some Klingons who feel the same about a peace treaty as yourself and Admiral Donald. They'll think twice about attacking the Enterprise under your command.

SPOCK
I have personally vouched for you in this matter, Captain.

KIRK
You have personally -

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: 23

CinC
You will accord Chancellor Gorkon full diplomatic courtesy, Captain Kirk.

KIRK
(straining)
Surely a full Ambassador would be better equipped to -

CinC
If there's no further business I wish you and your crew Godspeed. Thank you all.

He charges out as ALL RISE. Everyone files out.

ADMIRAL DONALD
I don't know whether to congratulate you or not, Jim.

BONES
I wouldn't...

He moves off. Bones too. The room is empty...

except for Spock still at the podium and Kirk sitting alone in the auditorium. He is furious, betrayed. Spock knows it.

KIRK
WE volunteered?

SPOCK
There's an old Vulcan proverb: only Nixon could go to China.

KIRK
(incensed)
How could you vouch for me? That's ...
(words fail him)
...arrogant presumption -

SPOCK
I was asked by my father to open neg-

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: 23

KIRK
I know your father's the Vulcan ambassador for heaven's sake, but you know how I feel about this: they're animals.

SPOCK
Jim, there is an historic opportunity here -

KIRK
DON'T TRUST THEM. DON'T BELIEVE THEM -

SPOCK
They're dying -

KIRK
LET THEM DIE.

Spock looks at him in silent reproach. Kirk hears
* himself and doesn't like it. *

KIRK
* (and what's more) *
Has it occurred to you that this crew is due for retirement in three months? WE'VE DONE OUR BIT FOR KING AND COUNTRY.

* Spock is patient. They stare at each other. *

ON Kirk's face.

KIRK
(finally)
You should have trusted me.

24 OMITTED (POST. ALTERNATE) 24
& &
24VFX 24VFX

25 INT. THE BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE 25

The elevator doors open. An attractive VULCAN LIEUTENANT leaps out of the command chair, whips to attention.

LT. SAAVIK
Captain on the bridge.

The CREW stands to.

KIRK
As you were. Lieutenant...?

LT. SAAVIK
Saavik, sir. We were told you'd need a helmsman --
(to Spock)
...so I volunteered.

She salutes. He smiles, returns the salute.

SPOCK
Lieutenant, I am pleased to see you again.
(off Kirk's look)
The Lieutenant is the first Vulcan to be graduated at the top of her class at the Academy.

KIRK
Congratulations, Lieutenant. You must be very proud...

LT. SAAVIK
I don't believe so, sir.

BONES
She's a Vulcan all right.

KIRK
(down to business)
All right, let's get this over with... departure stations...
(pushes the comm)
Scotty?

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 25

They assume their familiar stations.

SCOTTY'S VOICE
Aye, sir.

KIRK
Standby. Get me the dock master, Uhura.

UHURA
Control tower, reading, Sir.

KIRK
Control, this is Enterprise requesting permission to depart.

VOICE OVER
This is control. Enterprise, you are granted permission to depart...30 seconds for port gates...

LT. SAAVIK
Clear all moorings...

KIRK
Awaiting port gates from this mark...

FILTERED VOICE
Mooring lines cleared...

LT. SAAVIK
Aft thrusters -

KIRK
(overlaps)
Thank you. Lieutenant, one quarter impulse power...

LT. SAAVIK
(she turns to face him)
Captain, may I remind you that regulations specify thrusters only while in space dock?

The CREW - old and young - watch this exchange keenly. Spock is poker faced.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 25

They assume their familiar stations.

SCOTTY'S VOICE
Aye, sir?

KIRK
Engine room?

SCOTTY'S VOICE
Right where you left it, sir.

KIRK
Standby. Get me the dock master, Uhura.

UHURA
Control tower, reading, Sir.

KIRK
Control, this is Enterprise requesting permission to depart.

VOICE OVER
This is control. Enterprise, you are granted permission to depart...30 seconds for port gates...

LT. SAAVIK
Clear all moorings...

KIRK
Awaiting port gates from this mark...

FILTERED VOICE
Mooring lines cleared...

LT. SAAVIK
Aft thrusters -

KIRK
(overlaps)
Thank you. Lieutenant, one quarter impulse power...

LT. SAAVIK
(she turns to face him)
Captain, may I remind you that regulations specify thrusters only while in space dock?

The CREW - old and young - watch this exchange keenly. Spock is poker faced.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 25

UHURA
Here we go again...

BONES
(next to Chekov)
Uh, Jim...

KIRK
You heard the order, Lieutenant.

Saavik swivels away, rolling her eyes so Kirk can't see and hits the panel -

The ship begins to rattle slightly, then

26 EXT. SPACE DOCK 26
VFX VFX

the Enterprise SCREAMS out the dock and exits through the just-opening bay doors into outer space.

27 OMITTED 27
THRU THRU
29 29

30 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE - NIGHT 30

Kirk sits comfortably with a smile on his face.

KIRK
(continuing)
Lieutenant...

Saavik faces him.

KIRK
(continuing)
... I don't care if I'm senile. If I sit in this chair and give the word you jump.

Spock watches.

LT. SAAVIK
Aye, sir.

KIRK
Plot a course for Kronos, Lieutenant.

LT. SAAVIK
(startled)
Kronos, sir?

KIRK
I'm still in the chair, Lieutenant.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: 30

LT. SAAVIK
Aye, sir.

Other reactions. Kirk has taken command.

31 EXT. SPACE 31
VFX VFX

Enterprise cruises purposefully through the void.

KIRK'S VOICE OVER
Captain's log. Stardate 8679.12. They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks - and maybe they're right. It seems to me our mission to escort the Chancellor of the Klingon High Council to a peace summit is problematic at best.

32 INT. KIRK'S CABIN 32

Kirk is unpacking his bags as he dictates, hanging up his uniforms, his shaving tackle going next to the sink, etc.

KIRK
(continuing)
I have never trusted Klingons and never will. I have never been able to forgive them for the murder of my boy. Spock says this could be an historic moment and I'd like to believe him, but how on earth can history get past people like me?

* He sets up a photo of DAVID next to his berth. *

A delicate COUGH.

Kirk realizes he's not alone. Swivels to face

LIEUTENANT SAAVIK standing in the bulkhead doorway.

LT. SAAVIK
* Sorry - *

KIRK
Come on, Saavik, you COULD knock -

LT. SAAVIK
* We're almost at the rendezvous - I thought you'd want to know... *

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: 32

KIRK
Right -

He gets up and puts on his jacket. She watches.

LT. SAAVIK
Permission to speak freely, sir?

He doesn't stop her.

LT. SAAVIK
(continuing)
I gather you are not enthusiastic about the assignment...I don't think many on board are. Sir.

KIRK
You piloted well out of spacedock, Lieutenant -

LT. SAAVIK
(almost smiles)
I always wanted to try that.

KIRK
(passing her)
One...don't try putting words in my mouth.

And leaves her with that.

33 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE SPOCK'S QUARTERS 33

Saavik approaches; this time she's smart enough to KNOCK.

SPOCK'S VOICE
Enter.

34 INT. SPOCK'S QUARTERS 34

Functional but not cold. Spock collects antiques from his travels: a Klingon vase; a Romulan sculpture; rare volumes from Talos; a reproduction of an earthling oil painting, but a good one. Fanciful. Whimsical. Spock lights a votive candle as he speaks. * *

SPOCK
You have done well, Saavik. As your sponsor at the Academy I have followed your career with... satisfaction. And as a Vulcan. You have surpassed my expectations.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: 34

* He turns to discover her perusing the painting. She realizes. *

LT. SAAVIK
I do not understand the purpose of this representation.

SPOCK
The picture IS the purpose.

She doesn't get it.

SPOCK
(continuing)
You wished to see me?

She takes a breath. Sits.

LT. SAAVIK
(intense)
Sir, I speak to you as a kindred intellect. Do you not recognize that a turning point has been reached in the affairs of the Federation?

SPOCK
History is filled with turning points.
(off her look)
You must have faith.

LT. SAAVIK
Faith...?

SPOCK
That the universe will unfold as it should.

LT. SAAVIK
Is that logical? Surely, we must -

VOICE FILTERED
Klingon battlecruiser off the port bow. All hands on deck. Repeat...

She's startled. Spock begins to get into uniform.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: 34

SPOCK
Logic is the beginning of wisdom, Lieutenant, not the end. This will be my last voyage aboard this ship as a member of her crew. A Vulcan of your demonstrated ability should have no difficulty rising to the occasion. As you are doubtless aware, Nature abhors a vacuum.
(explains)
I intend you to replace me.

* 34A ANGLE ON SAAVIK 34A *

LT. SAAVIK
I could only succeed you, sir. Never replace you.

35 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE 35

The cruise is proceeding evenly as Kirk arrives out of one turbo-lift. Spock and Lieutenant Saavik emerge from another.

VOICE
Captain on the bridge.

CHEKOV
Captain, shall we raise our shields?

Spock looks at Kirk: trust me. Kirk scowls at him and stares at the screen. They all follow his gaze.

35 THE MAIN DISPLAY 35
VFX VFX

A KLINGON battlecruiser. HUGE.

KIRK
(finally)
Never been this close.

SPOCK
The Chancellor is undoubtedly awaiting our signal.

Boy is this hard for Kirk - finally:

KIRK
Uhura, hailing frequencies. Right standard rudder, bring us alongside...

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: 35

LT. SAAVIK
Right standard rudder, Z plus five degrees...

UHURA
Channel open, Captain.

KIRK
This is the Starship Enterprise, Captain James Kirk commanding.

36 GORKON comes up on the main visual display. 36

GORKON
This is KRONOS One. I am Chancellor Gorkon.

KIRK
* Chancellor. We've been ordered to escort you through Federation space to your meeting on Earth. *

GORKON
Thank you, Captain.

KIRK
(does his best)
* Uh, would you and your party care to dine this evening aboard Enterprise with my officers as guests of the United Federation of Planets? *

37 A few of the crew look around at Kirk. 37

GORKON
* We'd be delighted to accept your gracious invitation. *

KIRK
* (nuts) *
We'll make arrangements to have you beamed aboard at 1930 hours.

GORKON
I shall look forward to it.

* He disappears. Kirk turns to Spock. *

* KIRK *
I hope you're happy.

LT. SAAVIK
Captain.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: 37

* He turns. *

LT. SAAVIK
(continuing)
* - there is a supply of Romulan ale aboard - it might make the evening pass more... smoothly? *

Kirk smiles, relieved.

KIRK
* Officer thinking, Lieutenant. *

38 AT THE COMMUNICATION CONSOLE 38

Chekov leans over to Uhura.

CHEKOV
Guess who is coming to dinner.

39 EXT. SPACE 39
VFX VFX

Both ships cruise parallel in space.

40 INT. ENTERPRISE TRANSPORTER ROOM 40

Scotty stands by the console. Kirk, Spock and Bones stand next to him. They are spiffed up.

SCOTTY
Maybe if their particles just got a wee bit mixed....

KIRK
* Energize.. *

40 The beams reflect on the glass shield as half dozen 40
VFX Klingons, including one WOMAN start materializing. VFX
(NB Separate BEAM-INS for Gorkon, Azetbur, Chang).
Gorkon descends first. He is tall, splendidly barbaric.

KIRK
* Chancellor Gorkon. *

The Klingons are lordly, formal; bow, taking in their surroundings. An ELECTRONIC BOSUN'S WHISTLE pipes them.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: 40

KIRK
(continuing)
Chancellor, may I present Commander Spock, whom I believe you know, Dr. Leonard McCoy, chief medical officer, Montogmery Scott, chief engineer...

GORKON
(to Spock)
Commander, face to face at last...you have my thanks.

Spock bows.

GORKON
(continuing)
Gentlemen, this is my daughter, Azetbur...my military adviser, Brigadier Kerla...and this is General Chang, my chief of staff.

Chang wears a PATCH over one eye. He advances on Kirk with a grim smile, lone eyeball to eyeball.

CHANG
I've always wanted to meet you, Captain...

KIRK
(smiles)
I'm not sure how to take that.

KERLA
Sincere admiration, Kirk -

CHANG
(soft)
As one warrior to another...

KIRK
(ducks this)
Uh, right this way, gentlemen. I thought you might enjoy a brief tour...

The party leaves. As they move past TWO CREWMEN...

1st CREWMAN
They all look alike.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: 40

2ND CREWMAN
What about that smell? You know only the top of the line models can even talk.

They turn to find themselves facing an expressionless Lieutenant Saavik.

LT. SAAVIK
You men have work?

1st CREWMAN
Yes, sir.

LT. SAAVIK
Then snap to it.

* 41 INT. R DECK CORRIDOR 41 *

leaving the Enterprise Science Labs...

GORKON
Your research laboratory is most impressive...

KIRK
Starfleet's been charting and cataloging planetary atmospheres. All vessels are equipped with chemical-analytic sensors...

GORKON
This cannot be easy for you, Captain...
(off the look)
I would feel awkward if I had to give you a tour of OUR vessel...

The man's courtesy makes Kirk feel guilty...

KIRK
Would you care to go topside?

CHANG
Very much.

CHEKOV
(pulling Kirk aside)
Captain, you're not going to show them the bridge??

(CONTINUED)

41

41 CONTINUED:

KIRK
(clenched teeth)
Full diplomatic courtesy, Mr. Chekov...

The party passes Uhura and a YOUNGER CREWMAN.

YOUNGER CREWMAN
Would you want to drink from the same glass?

42 OMITTED 42

42 REPEAT 39 VFX 42
VFX VFX

THE TWO SHIPS CRUISE PARALLEL.

43 INT. OFFICERS' MESS, ENTERPRISE 43

A WINDOW IRISES OPEN REVEALING the stars gliding by.

A HAND POURS DEEP BLUE ROMULAN ALE into Gorkon's crystal goblet. Dinner well underway. Principals from both parties are at table. STEWARDS keep food and drink in motion.

GORKON
I give you a toast: the undiscovered country -
(off their looks)
the future.

All echo "the undiscovered country" and drink. The KLINGONS eat with their fingers, scorning utensils.

SPOCK
HAMLET, act three, scene one.

GORKON
You have never experienced Shakespeare until you have read him in the original Klingon.

Chang turns to Kirk with a malicious twinkle.

CHANG
"To be or not to be, that is the question" which preoccupies our people, Captain Kirk. We need BREATHING room...

KIRK
Earth, Germany, 1938.

CHANG
I beg your pardon?

KERLA
(hastily)
Captain Kirk, I thought Romulan ale was illegal.

It takes Kirk a moment to regain his composure.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: 43

KIRK
One of the advantages of being a thousand light years from Federation headquarters.

Silence.

(CONTINUED)

012

43 CONTINUED: 43

BONES
To you, Chancellor Gorkon: one of the architects of our future.

All drink. As Romulan ale flows throughout the scene, tongues get looser. Gorkon WATCHES.

SCOTTY
Perhaps we are looking at something of that future here.

AZETBUR
Commander Spock, mindful of all your work behind the scenes, and despite the cordiality at this mess, I do not sense an acceptance of our people throughout your ship.

SPOCK
They're naturally wary, ma'am. We've been at war a long time.

UHURA
Both sides must overcome ingrained prejudice - but how?

CHEKOV
Perhaps with a few small steps at a time. Like this one.

BONES
And perhaps with a large step or two. Like a peace treaty.

CHANG
Captain Kirk, are you willing to give up Starfleet?

Kirk stares.

SPOCK
I believe the Captain feels that Starfleet's mission has always been one of peace -

All eyes go from Kirk to Spock - and back.

KIRK
(glares)
Far be it from me to dispute my first officer. Starfleet has always -

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: 43

CHANG
Come now, Captain, no need to mince words; this dinner is off the record: in space all warriors are cold warriors.

SCOTTY
We have NEVER tried to --

KERLA
You hypocritically presume that your democratic system gives you a moral prerogative to force other cultures to conform to your politics.

BONES
That's not true..!

KERLA
No?

Uhura faces the Klingon across from her - all tact.

UHURA
General, are YOU fond of Shakespeare?

He looks at her, his hands and mouth full of food. Ugh. Chekov pursues -

CHEKOV
We do NOT impose democracy on others. We do believe that every planet has a sovereign claim to inalienable human rights.

AZETBUR
(laughs)
"In-ALIEN...?" If you could hear yourselves. "HUMAN" rights? Even the name is racist. The Federation is a "homo sapiens" only club...

CHANG catches Spock's reaction to this.

CHANG
Present company excepted, to be sure...

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: 43

UHURA
Well, I suppose we're not perfect-

SCOTTY
(rising)
Don't let them put words in your mouth - ! I haven't served 30 years in the engine room of a starship to be accused of gunboat diplomacy!

KERLA
(in his cups)
In any case, we know where this is leading: the annihilation of our culture. Klingons will replace those on the lowest rung of the Federation employment ladder, taking menial jobs and performing them for lower pay...

CHEKOV
That's economics, not racism -

UHURA
But you have to admit it adds up to the same thing.

BONES
Don't be naive, Commander -!

UHURA
Kindly do not patronize me, Doctor.

Kirk stares suddenly down the table throughout this.

CHEKOV
We're explorers not diplomats!

BONES
Come on: Starfleet's killed an awful lot of natural phenomena in the name of "exploration"...

SCOTTY
We follow orders...

CHEKOV
Since when has THAT been an excuse? Diplomacy must resolve these-

(CONTINUED)

43

43 CONTINUED:

SCOTTY
Right - leave it to the politicians to muck it up and leave us defenseless..!

A COUGH interrupts the fight. All eyes on Gorkon. The Klingons conceal their amusement.

GORKON
(finally)
Well. I see we have a long way to go.

Reactions from Kirk and his officers.

44

44 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM, ENTERPRISE

Both parties are gathered, saying goodbyes.

GORKON
Thank you, Captain Kirk. The evening has been most... edifying.

KIRK
(wooden)
We must do this again soon.

Gorkon stares at him, smiles slightly.

GORKON
You don't trust me.

Kirk can't look at him.

GORKON
(continuing)
I don't blame you. You see me as what - a cliche? If there IS to be a Brave New World, we old people will have the hardest time living in it. Captain Spock.

SPOCK
Chancellor. A pleasure to meet you, Ma'am.

AZETBUR
Captain...

KIRK
General Chang, a pleasure...

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: 44

CHANG
(grins)
"Parting is such sweet sorrow, shall we say goodnight till it be morrow?"

* Kirk is ready to slug him but turns his fist into a SALUTE. The Klingons step on the transporter platform. Chang speaks into his communicator, nods to Kirk. *

KIRK
Energize.

44 They disappear. The Bosun's whistle. 44
VFX VFX

SCOTTY
Thank God.

CHEKOV
Did you see the way they ate? Terrible table manners.

SPOCK
* I don't believe our own conduct will distinguish us in the annals of diplomacy... *

KIRK
I'm going to sleep this off. Let me know if there's some other way we can screw up tonight.

He starts out; others follow...

45 INT. KIRK'S QUARTERS 45

He comes in slightly drunk and pushes the button on his log. Lies on his bunk and speaks. The SHIP'S BELLS give 0100.

KIRK
Captain's log. Stardate 8679.15. The Enterprise hosted Chancellor Gorkon and company for dinner last night. Our manners were not exactly Emily Post. Note to the galley: Romulan ale no longer to be served at diplomatic functions.

He leans back, sighs, thinking -

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: 45

KIRK
(continuing)
But it wasn't the ale. That was just the excuse we needed to say all the things that were really on our minds...

SPOCK'S VOICE
(filtered)
* Captain Kirk, will you please join me on the bridge? Captain Kirk... *

Kirk reacts, tries to shake himself awake.

46 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 46

Kirk enters. Glances at the main visual display: the
46 battlecruiser still travels silently alongside. 46
VFXA VFXA

Saavik still has the conn. Spock is at his post.

SPOCK
Captain.

KIRK
(rubs his eyes)
What is it?

SPOCK
I am uncertain.

KIRK
Spock, I'm really tired...

SPOCK
We are reading an enormous amount of neutron radiation.

KIRK
(tries to focus)
Where?

SPOCK
Curiously it appears to emanate from us.

KIRK
From Enterprise?

Spock remains silent. Kirk is disturbed, paces, watching the displays.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: 46

KIRK
Saavik, you know anything about a neutron energy surge?

LT. SAAVIK
Sir?

KIRK
Mr. Chekov, anything unusual?

CHEKOV
Just the size of my head -

KIRK
I know what you mean...

46 VFXB A photon TORPEDO suddenly streaks from the bottom of the screen and hits the hull of the President's flagship! 46 VFXB

KIRK
What the -

SPOCK
We've fired on the Chancellor's ship -

CHEKOV
Torpedo room--?

KIRK
Uhura, monitor!

LT. SAAVIK
Direct hit -

UHURA
Confirmed, Captain!

46 VFXC A second photon shoots out from the bottom of the display screen toward the President's ship. 46 VFXC

KIRK
(frantic)
Who's doing that?

Saavik hits panel controls, trying to find out...

47 INT. GORKON'S STATEROOM, KLINGON FLAGSHIP 47

Gorkon, several advisers and soldiers were seated but the impact has thrown them about. They speak SUBTITLED KLINGON.

The entire FLAGSHIP is drenched in AMBER emergency LIGHT.

ADVISER
We're hit --!

Another blast. They start floating helplessly in the air! Everything mobile RISES...WEAPONS FLOAT OUT OF REACH...

SOLDIER
Gravity generator!

48 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM, FLAGSHIP 48

CLOSE ON

48 TWO SETS OF HEAVY GRAVITY BOOTS as they materialize. 48
VFXA The legs inside them wear STARFLEET UNIFORMS and VFXA
carry PHASERS at their sides. They SHOOT the Klingon
* Transporter OFFICER. They STOMP HEAVILY through the *
ALARMS and chaos, firing at the helpless, floating
CREW...CRIES of wounded...WEAPONS FLOAT out of their
holsters just out of reach in the AMBER LIGHT...

48 KLINGON BLOOD FLOATS IN THE AIR 48
VFXB VFXB

49 INT. FLAGSHIP CORRIDOR 49

where Klingon crew are FLOATING helplessly. The GRAVITY BOOTS shoot anything in their way, WALK ON WALLS, etc as they hurry along to

50 INT. GORKON'S STATEROOM, FLAGSHIP 50

where they BLAST a GUARD at the door, SEVERING HIS ARM and enter. The KLINGONS have weapons but are floating and unable to aim. They are quickly shot as the two HIT MEN make their way toward Gorkon.

50 BLOOD NOW FLOATS about as well as debris in the 50
VFX crackling emergency lighting. A good deal of HISSING VFX
STEAM...

Chancellor Gorkon is shot. The Hit Men turn and exit quickly. Linger on a scene of WEIGHTLESS carnage and assassination.

51 INT. FLAGSHIP CORRIDOR - NIGHT 51

The Hit Men hurry back the way they came in their
51 awkward magnetic boots. Bodies and blood floating 51
VFX around them. VFX

52 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM, FLAGSHIP 52

52 The HEAVY BOOTS step on the platform and de-materialize. 52
* VFX (One FOOT TREADS ON FLOATING KLINGON BLOOD) VFX *

53 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE 53

53 A snowy picture on the visual display, then Chang comes 53
* VFXA on (still in AMBER LIGHT)... VFXA *

CHANG
(He's screaming in Klingon,
reverting to his native
language under stress.)

UHURA
He says we've fired on them in a
blatant act of war.

KIRK
We HAVEN'T fired -

SPOCK
According to the data bank, we HAVE
- twice...

LT. SAAVIK
Captain, they're coming about!

53 ONSCREEN 53
VFXB VFXB
the battlecruiser/flagship now heading for Enterprise.

SPOCK
They're preparing to fire.

CHEKOV
Shields up, Captain --?

Kirk hasn't moved. He's staring at the display,
thinking.

LT. SAAVIK
Captain, our shields -- !

KIRK
Uhura, signal our surrender.

UHURA
Captain --

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: 53

KIRK
WE SURRENDER.

UHURA
This is Enterprise. We surrender. Repeat. Enterprise surrenders --

CHEKOV
Captain, if they fire at us with our shields down --

KIRK
Torpedo bay! DID we fire those torpedoes?

54 OMITTED 54

55 INT. ENTERPRISE TORPEDO BAY 55

Scotty at the console.

SCOTTY
Negative, Captain. According to Inventory we're still fully loaded.

56 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 56

ANGLE ON SPOCK
reacting. How can this be? He checks DATA BANKS again.

56 VFX CU DATA BANKS: they reconfirm - two photon torpedoes fired. 56 VFX

KIRK
Stand down your weapons.

SCOTTY (V.O.)
Captain, if --

57 ANOTHER ANGLE 57

KIRK
Stand DOWN, Mr. Scott. All Stop.
* Do you hear me, Mister? *

SCOTTY
Aye, sir.

Bones hurries in, carrying his stuff.

BONES
What the Hell's going on?

KIRK
I wish I knew. Uhura?

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: 57

UHURA
It's pretty chaotic over there. There's been some weapons fire and a lot of shouting...

KIRK
I'm going aboard. Spock, you have the conn.

He heads for the transporter room. Spock blocks him.

SPOCK
(blocks Kirk)
I am responsible for involving you in this. I will go.

KIRK
(bitter)
I'M going. You're going to be responsible for getting me out of this. Meantime we're not going to be the instigators of a full-scale war on the eve of universal peace.

And Spock uncharacteristically pats him on the back.

SPOCK
Perhaps you're right.

BONES
I'm going too. They may need a doctor.

KIRK
Uhura, tell them we're coming. And tell them we're unarmed.

They hurry out.

58 INT. GORKON'S STATEROOM, FLAGSHIP 58

Chang and his ASSISTANTS are trying to sort things out without gravity. Chang shouts efficient orders in Klingon as he finds and tries to help Gorkon...

Chang keeps himself upright by grabbing a handhold, but the stricken are still floating...

A few more orders from Chang, then the lights flicker, then all the bodies and BLOOD slam to the ground as the gravitational source is restored. Lighting is "NORMAL."

59 INT. FLAGSHIP TRANSPORTER ROOM 59
VFX VFX

Kirk and Bones materialize. They are quickly surrounded by ARMED SOLDIERS. Kirk puts his hands out to indicate they are not carrying weapons. They are searched as Kerla enters.

KERLA
Have you lost your mind?

KIRK
I give you my word I don't understand what has happened.

BONES
We're here to help...

KERLA
(hesitates; furious)
Follow me.

He leads them along the

60 INT. FLAGSHIP CORRIDOR 60

same path - a scene of destruction - which the hit men took, right into

61 INT. GORKON'S STATEROOM, FLAGSHIP 61

where dead and wounded are being separated.

Kerla hurries over to Gorkon, as few on the rug, blood running everywhere. Azetbur is holding him, now bloody herself (she wasn't in the room during the assassination).

BONES
Chancellor Gorkon

He goes to him immediately. Chang rises from next to Gorkon.

KIRK
My God, what happened here?

CHANG
* You feign ignorance? *

* KIRK *
WHAT HAPPENED?

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED: 61

CHANG
You crippled our gravitational field with a direct torpedo hit, and two Starfleet crewmen beamed aboard in magnetic boots and did this! WE HAVE WITNESSES!

Kirk has no response, is shocked.

BONES
Jim!

Bones is being held back from Gorkon by two Klingons.

KIRK
He's a DOCTOR!

CHANG
How can I trust --

BONES
Are you carrying a surgeon?

CHANG
(enraged)
We WERE!

BONES
Then let me help!

Chang hesitates; signals. Bones is released.

BONES
I need some light. Can we get him onto the table...?

KLINGONS lift Gorkon onto his table; someone produces LIGHT. Bones whips out his medical scanner. His hands are SHAKING. A space-age REMBRANDT painting.

BONES
(to Kirk)
Hold him.

Kirk grabs Gorkon's arms.

BONES
(continuing)
Sweet Jesus...! He's lost a lot of whatever this stuff is...

KIRK
Can you - ?

(CONTINUED)

61

61 CONTINUED:

BONES
Jim, I don't even know his anatomy.

Bones furiously goes over Gorkon with his anabolic photoplaser. Shakes his head. Gorkon clutches Kirk. *

BONES
(continuing)
The wounds aren't closing...

(CONTINUED)

012

61 CONTINUED: 61

KERLA
You're killing him!

Kirk grabs Chang before he can get to Bones.

KIRK
No!

BONES
Chancellor Gorkon, can you hear me? Chancellor...?

No response. Bones rips open Gorkon's collar...

AZETBUR
Father...!

KIRK
Bones..?

BONES
(sweating)
He's gone into some kind of arrest...come on, dammit!

He tries a medical tricorder.

Frantically, he THUMPS Gorkon's chest..

as Kirk et al, look, Gorkon feebly opens his eyes, sees Kirk...

GORKON
Are you all right?

HE FREEZES; Bones looks at the scanner. It turns bright red. Gorkon is dead. Kirk is in shock: he was for real.

BONES
(stunned)
I lost him...

Azetbur sits holding Gorkon, dry-eyed. Kirk pulls at Bones.

CHANG
(grim triumph)
Under article 184 of Interstellar Law, I place you both under arrest. You are charged with assassinating the Chancellor of the High Council.

KIRK
He just tried to save him!

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED: 61

CHANG
(Klingon)
Take them away.

They are handcuffed. Both are in shock.

62 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE 62

Uhura is listening carefully. Scotty has joined Spock and the others on the bridge.

UHURA
They've been arrested.

All eyes go to Spock. We can guess how he feels.

CHEKOV
Mr. Spock, we've got to do something!

The others crowd in, waiting for orders. Depending on him.

SPOCK
(finally)
* I assume command of this ship as of *
(he checks)
0130 hours. Uhura, send to Starfleet HQ. Explain precisely what has taken place, and request instructions.

UHURA
Yes, sir.

LT. SAAVIK
But we can't allow them to be taken back to Kronos as prisoners!

SPOCK
What do you suggest, Lieutenant?
* Opening fire would retrieve the *
Captain, and an armed engagement was precisely what he wished to avoid.

SCOTTY
At least we must keep track of where they are taken, sir. I -

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: 62

SPOCK
I've already addressed that question, Mr. Scott. We'll be able to follow the Captain's movements.

LT. SAAVIK
* How did you achieve - ? *

SPOCK
* Time is precious, Lieutenant. We must endeavor to piece together what happened here tonight. According to our data banks, this ship fired those torpedoes. *

SCOTTY
NO WAY!

SPOCK
Mr. Scott, you forget yourself. Please accompany me.

He starts out -

CHEKOV
And if we can't piece together what happened? What then? Sir.

Spock turns unhappily.

SPOCK
Then, Mr. Chekov, it resides in the purview of the diplomats.

63 INT. OFFICE OF THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT - DAY 63

The FEDERATION PRESIDENT and the KLINGON AMBASSADOR. With them is the VULCAN AMBASSADOR, SAREK - Spock's father - and NANCLUS, the ROMULAN AMBASSADOR.

KLINGON AMBASSADOR
The Chancellor of the High Council is dead - the result of an unprovoked attack while he travelled to see YOU under a flag of truce on a mission of peace. Captain Kirk was legally arrested for the crime. May I remind you that he and Doctor McCoy boarded KRONOS ONE of their own free will. None of these facts are in dispute, Mr. President.

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: 63

PRESIDENT
I will demand a full investigation. You can be assured we will cooperate with all our power to get to the bottom of the matter. In the meantime--

KLINGON AMBASSADOR
In the meantime we expect the Federation to abide by the articles of Interstellar Law you claim to cherish. Kirk and Doctor McCoy WILL stand trial for the assassination of Chancellor Gorkon.

PRESIDENT
Out of the question. Ambassador Sarek, there must be some way to extradite these men -

AMBASSADOR SAREK
(heavily)
Mr. President, I share a measure of personal responsibility in this matter, but I am obliged to confirm my esteemed colleague's legal interpretation: Kirk and Dr. McCoy were properly arrested and the Klingons are within their rights to try them.

PRESIDENT
And what is the position of the Romulan government, Ambassador Nanclus?

AMBASSADOR NANCLUS
(wily)
In the absence of specific instructions from my government, I must concur with my colleagues.

PRESIDENT
But surely you cannot believe that James Kirk assassinated the Chancellor of the High Council.

AMBASSADOR NANCLUS
("reluctant")
Mr. President, I don't know what to believe.

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: 63

KLINGON AMBASSADOR
I am waiting for your answer, Mr. President.

Long pause.

PRESIDENT
This President is not above the law.

The Klingon Ambassador bows and takes his leave. The President is left with the two Ambassadors.

SEC'Y VOICE
Mr. President, Starfleet Command is here from San Francisco.

PRESIDENT
Send them in.

Three OFFICERS from Starfleet - including Admiral Cartwright and the CinC - enter from a DIFFERENT DOOR.

ADMIRAL CARTWRIGHT
Mr. President.

PRESIDENT
Admiral Cartwright...Bill...

ADMIRAL CARTWRIGHT
Mr. President we cannot allow Federation citizens to be abducted.

PRESIDENT
* Pending a full report I am constrained to observe Interstellar Law. *

A stand off. Cartwright nods to another OFFICER.

OFFICER
We've prepared Operation Retrieve based on the rising danger of terrorism between the Klingon empire and the Federation. Sir, we can go in and rescue the hostages and be out in 24 hours with an acceptable rate of loss in manpower and equipment. We have the technology to --

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: 63

PRESIDENT
Suppose you precipitate a full scale war?

OFFICER
Then, quite frankly, Mr. President, we can clean their chronometers.

AMBASSADOR NANCLUS
Mr. President, they ARE vulnerable. There'll never be a better time...

Pause as the president considers.

ADMIRAL CARTWRIGHT
The longer we wait, the less accessible those hostages will be, sir.

PRESIDENT
(finally)
I'll bear that in mind, Admiral. I think that's all.

CinC
Sir.

The President looks at him.

CinC
(continuing)
Those men have literally saved this planet - and you know it.

PRESIDENT
I do know it. And now I'm afraid they're going to save it again. By standing trial.

They're dismissed. The President puts his head in his hands... finally looks up at Sarek.

* *

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: 63

PRESIDENT
I want the crew of Enterprise in my office tomorrow morning.

AMBASSADOR SAREK
They're still in space, Mr. President - adjacent to the Neutral Zone.

PRESIDENT
Then tell your son to get the hell back here before the end of the week.

A BUTLER brings water for his pills.

64 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE 64

Uhura's communications panel. Chekov stands over her shoulder. In Uhura's EARPIECE we can HEAR filtered SCREAMING! She can hardly stand the volume.

UHURA
(understates)
We're to report back at once.

CHEKOV
We cannot abandon Captain Kirk and Doctor McCoy.

He looks at the rest of the CREW. Saavik wanders by.

UHURA
Of course not -

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: 64

LT. SAAVIK
Four hundred years ago, on the planet earth, workers whose lives were threatened by automation flung their wooden shoes - called SABOTS - into the machines to stop them. Hence the word sabo-TAGE.

UHURA
(like a machine)
We are experiencing a technical malfunction. All backup systems inoperative.

CHEKOV
Excellent. I mean too bad. Who will tell Captain Spock?

UHURA
(deadpan)
A fellow Vulcan?

Saavik heads off. They stare.

65 OFFICE OF THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT - DAY 65

The President is meeting with SIX civilian ADVISERS.

MUNITIONS BUSINESSMAN
You have our total support, Mister President. My factories can gear up to full weapons production in less than a week.

PRESIDENT
Thank you, Henry. Right now we're pursuing diplomatic channels...

MUNITIONS BUSINESSMAN
Of course. No one wants a war...

AMBASSADOR SAREK
If I may, Mr. President. The important thing is to keep the peace process alive. If the new Chancellor is so disposed, perhaps we can attach a rider, get some assurance that these men won't be executed. Then, in a year -

(CONTINUED)

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(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED: 65

SEC'Y VOICE
Mr. President, you have the new Chancellor of the High Council calling.

They all swing to look at the far wall, which

65 lights up as a visual display. After a snowy 65
VFX beginning, Azetbur appears. VFX

66 INT. AZETBUR'S OFFICE 66

AZETBUR
Mr. President, I've been named Chancellor of the High Council in my father's place.

67 INT. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT 67

Reactions in the room.

PRESIDENT
Madam Chancellor, you have my sincerest condolences on your recent loss. I want to assure you that this shameful deed--

AZETBUR
Mr. President, let us come to the point: you want the conference to go forward and so did my father. I will attend in one week - after I've had the opportunity to master the details of his position - on one condition: we will not extradite the prisoners and you will not attempt to rescue them in a military operation. We would consider any such attempt an act of war.

PRESIDENT
We look forward to meeting with you next week, Madam Chancellor. I hope you will be our guest here on --

AZETBUR
* After recent events you will * understand I prefer a neutral site. And in the interests of security, let us keep the location secret.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED: 67

PRESIDENT
As you wish, Madam Chancellor.

She clicks off. The President and his advisers are a little speechless at her strength and brusqueness. More pills.

68 INT. AZETBUR'S OFFICE - DAY 68

She's gotten off the phone. WE ARE NOW IN KLINGON.

KERLA
Attack them now, Madam Chancellor - while we still can...!

He unfurls battle plans..

FIRST GENERAL
Attack - or be slaves in their world!

SECOND GENERAL
We can take whole by force what they propose to divide...

AZETBUR
(weary)
You don't seem to grasp our situation, General. War is... obsolete. As we are in danger of becoming.

KERLA
Better to die on our feet than live on our knees...

AZETBUR
That wasn't what my father wanted -

CHANG
(bitter)
He was killed for what he wanted.

That sinks in. Azetbur hardens. Faces Chang.

AZETBUR
Kirk must have a fair trial.

CHANG
(grim)
Klingon law will take its course -

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED: 68

AZETBUR
(stony)
No. Kirk must be tried according to Interstellar Law.

1ST GENERAL & 2ND GENERAL
But - Madam Chancel-!

AZETBUR
You will represent the state, General Chang.

CHANG
The Federation will pay dearly -

AZETBUR
Not the Federation.
(off his look)
The Peace process must go forward. Kirk. Kirk must pay for my father's death.

(CONTINUED)

012

68 CONTINUED: 68

CHANG
With pleasure, Madam Chancellor.

69 INT. TORPEDO BAY, USS ENTERPRISE 69

Spock and Scotty hover over the torpedo console, looking at numbers and lights. Spock thinks hard. EIGHT BELLS SOUND. It is perfectly clear: according to the "INVENTORY" program ALL TORPEDOES ARE STILL ABOARD.

SCOTTY
It's as I said, Mr. Spock: Inventory still registers every torpedo.

SPOCK
(musing)
Yet the data banks insist we fired.
(beat)
One computer is lying.

SCOTTY
A computer canna lie, sir.

SPOCK
Precisely, Mr. Scott. Therefore we must check the torpedoes visually.

SCOTTY
That could take hours!

SPOCK
Nevertheless.

SCOTTY
And if they're all in place?

SPOCK
Then someone forged a data bank entry.

Lieutenant Saavik descends into the bay.

LT. SAAVIK
They've named Gorkon's daughter Chancellor - it was on the news.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED: 69

SCOTTY
I'll bet that Klingon bitch killed her father...

SPOCK
Her own father...?

(CONTINUED)

12

69 CONTINUED: 69

LT. SAAVIK
It is an old story, sir.

SCOTTY
They don't place the same value on life that we do, Spock - you know that...take my word: she didn't shed one bloody tear...

SPOCK
That's hardly conclusive, Mr. Scott, as Klingons have no tear ducts.

Before he can react.

SPOCK
(continuing)
Any reply from Starfleet to our dispatch, Lieutenant?

LT. SAAVIK
Yes, sir.

She lets the words hang there.

SPOCK
(looking at her keenly)
And...?

LT. SAAVIK
Commander Uhura has been experiencing technical difficulties sir.

SPOCK
Curious.
(beat)
Very well. For twenty-four hours we'll agree that this conversation did not take place.

LT. SAAVIK
A lie?

SPOCK
An omission. After that -

SCOTTY
Twenty-four hours from now we won't have a clue where the Captain is.

SPOCK
I know precisely where he'll be.

Scotty and Lieutenant Saavik react.

69 CONTINUED: 69

SCOTTY
You do? Where?

70 TIGHT ON KIRK'S EYES. JUMP BACK TO REVEAL 70
VFX VFX

THE KLINGON EMPIRE IN ALL ITS BARBARIC SPLENDOR

A cavernous stadium arranged in circular tiers cut from jagged stone. A place from a bygone age, of savage and awesome beauty. Something between a CIRCUS and a CATHEDRAL.

...turned for the occasion into a gigantic COURTROOM with thousands of spectators...SCREAMING: "KIRK! KIRK! KIRK!"

Many in the AUDIENCE hold SPEARS with lighted HEADS.

Kirk and Bones in the dock, stand in the bottom at the very center of the circle, surrounded by a Klingon AUDIENCE in rising tiers, while HOODED KLINGON JUDGES * sit invisible in a darkened dugout. (One Judge is an * ALBINO.)

CHANG wears the prosecutor's mantle.

In the audience is President Azetbur and her ADVISERS. The trial is being BROADCAST and special CAMERAS abound.

Near Kirk and Bones sits their young, eager Klingon DEFENSE ATTORNEY. Kirk keeps his cool throughout, though Bones tends to steam.

The rules are different. Attorneys are empowered to ask anyone present a question at any time. And to mix this up with statements and charges.

The proceedings BEGIN in subtitled KLINGON. Kirk and Bones wear HEADPHONES. When they speak a TRANSLATOR converts to Klingon...

As Chang gets going, we ZOOM into his MOUTH and he * converts to ENGLISH...the JUDGES' GAVEL IS A GROTESQUE * MAILED GLOVE.

CHANG
The State will show that Enterprise * fired on KRONOS One without * provocation, the Chancellor and his advisers having been lulled into a false sense of security with an invitation to a state dinner aboard Captain Kirk's vessel at 1930 hours that same evening.

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED: 70

CHANG
Do you deny all this?

The mob howls "Kirk!" as the Judge gavels.

JUDGE
The Prisoner will respond.

KIRK
I don't deny we invited them to dinner.

* 71 ANGLE ON CHANCELLOR AZETBUR 71 *

CHANG
Were you drunk at that dinner, Captain?

72 INT. PRESIDENT UFP'S OFFICE - DAY 72

72 VFX The President and his ADVISERS, including Sarek, watch the proceedings unhappily onscreen. TRANSLATOR'S VOICE OVER. 72 VFX

KIRK
What?

CHANG
Isn't it a fact that you served Romulan ale, a beverage illegal in the Federation because of its overwhelming potency?

KIRK
The drink WAS served...

The CinC and President wince -

CinC
This is a damned show trial.

73 INT. KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY 73

CHANG
And you still maintain your ship
* did not fire on KRONOS One? Would you have known if she had? Come now, Captain. The record clearly there were no other ships in the sector.

KIRK
There... were no other ships in the sector.

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED: 73

CHANG
Did you have occasion to refer to your ship's data banks during that night?

KIRK
I checked the data banks, yes.

CHANG
And what did they tell you?

KIRK
(reluctant)
That we fired two photon torpedoes. But -

The mob howls.

CHANG
The witness is excused for the time being.

Chang whirls off as the Judge cavels...

74 START ON TV: IN KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY 74

One of PRESIDENT GORKON'S GUARDS is on the stand. He is MISSING an EYE.

GUARD
After the first hit, we lost our gravitational field; I found myself weightless and unable to function. Then 2 Starfleet crewmen came walking toward us-

75 WIDEN TO REVEAL WE ARE WATCHING ABOARD ENTERPRISE 75

Spock et al are receiving the transmission on their main visual display. They watch in silence. TRANSLATOR'S VOICE.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
Perhaps they merely wore Starfleet uniforms -

CHANG
I move that remark be stricken as purely speculative...

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED: 75

JUDGE
So ordered. Colonel Worf, we are interested in facts, not theories.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
If the gravitational field was not functioning, how could these men have been walking?

GUARD
They appeared to be wearing magnetic boots.

Murmur. The Defense Attorney wishes he hadn't asked.

SPOCK
Gravity boots...

76 INT. KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY 76

CHANG
They fired on you?

GUARD
With Starfleet issue phasers. They dashed into the Chancellor's stateroom; we could hear more phaser fire; then they went back the way they'd come.

CHANG
Towards the transporter room?

GUARD
Yes, sir.

SWISH PAN TO CU SULU

77 INT. BRIDGE, USS EXCELSIOR 77

Sulu and his crew are watching the trial on their visual display as well.

78 INT. KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY 78

CHANG
Doctor McCoy, what is your current medical status?

(CONTINUED)

78 CONTINUED: 78

BONES
Aside from a touch of arthritis, I'd say pretty good.

Sulu has to smile. Chang is not amused; waits.

BONES
(continuing)
For 27 years I have been Ship's Surgeon and later Chief Medical Officer aboard the USS Enterprise. In three months I'm due to stand down.

CHANG
Stand...?

BONES
Retire.

CHANG
(soft)
Ah. I believe you also consumed Romulan ale at the officers' mess on the night in question, doctor?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
Objection -

JUDGE
Sustained...

BONES
(angry)
We all did. But that doesn't mean -

JUDGE
General Chang, come to the point or abandon this line of inquiry.

CHANG
* Was Chancellor Gorkon alive when you first examined him?

(CONTINUED)

78 CONTINUED: 78

BONES
Barely.

CHANG
Have you saved patients as "barely" alive as he was?

President Azetbur flinches at the memory.

BONES
I didn't have the knowledge of Klingon anatomy I needed.

CHANG
You say you are due for retirement. May I ask: do your hands shake?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
Objection!

JUDGE
Overruled -

BONES
I was nervous -

CHANG
You were incompetent - whether deliberately or as a result of age combined with drink this court will determine.

BONES
I tried to save him! I was desperate to save him! He was the last best hope in the universe for real peace.

CHANG
* The Chancellor herself will testify that the defendant's hands shook. *

79 INT. UFP PRESIDENT'S OFFICE. 79

79 The President et al watch unhappily. 79
VFX VFX

80 INT. KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY 80

CHANG
And now we come to the architect of this tragic affair, Captain James Tiberius Kirk. I put it to you, Captain, that you were seeking revenge for the death of your son.

KIRK
That isn't true..!

CHANG
That, either as an instrument of Federation policy or acting on your own drunken initiative, you and your fellow conspirators crippled KRONOS One and cold-bloodedly assassinated the Chancellor of the High Council. Then you and Doctor McCoy went aboard to make certain the job was complete.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
Objection! Captain Kirk has not been identified as the assassin.

JUDGE
Sustained.

CHANG
I offer into the record the following excerpt from Captain Kirk's personal log.

He signals. Kirk's VOICE fills the room.

KIRK'S VOICE
I have never trusted Klingons and never will. I have never been able to forgive them for the murder of my boy...

An explosive babble fills the court. The Judge POUNDS HIS GLOVE for order...QUICK REACTION SHOTS:

81 THE ENTERPRISE, 81

82 THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, 82

83 THE EXCELSIOR - THEN BACK TO THE COURTROOM 83

84 INT. COURTROOM - DAY 84

CHANG
Are those your words?

(CONTINUED)

84 CONTINUED: 84

KIRK
Yes.

CHANG
Spoken by you?

KIRK
Yes...

CHANG
Louder, please. We cannot hear you.

KIRK
(firmer)
Those words were spoken by me.

85 INT. BRIDGE, USS EXCELSIOR 85

85 VFX Sulu is speaking confidentially to his communications officer. Onscreen behind them the trial continues. 85 VFX

SULU
Send to Commander Enterprise: "We stand ready to assist you. Captain Sulu. USS Excelsior. Attach our co-ordinates.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Is that wise, sir? I mean, given their situation?
(off Sulu's look)
Aye, sir.

He leaves. Sulu looks up at the screen, unhappily.

85A COURTROOM 85A

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
Objection, your honors. My clients' political views are not on trial here.

86 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 86

86 VFX The trial is on SEVERAL MONITORS BG. Spock, next to Uhura. 86 VFX

UHURA
Sulu's giving us his position and telling us he's standing by...

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED: 86

SPOCK
(unhappy)
He's placing himself in a most awkward situation...

CHANG (V.O.)
On the contrary, Captain Kirk's views and motives are at the heart of this matter. This officer's record shows the accused to be an insubordinate, unprincipled career opportunist with a history of violating the chain of command when it suited him.

87 INT. KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY 87

CHANG
(continuing)
Indeed the record will show that "Captain" Kirk was once "Admiral" Kirk and that Admiral Kirk was broken for taking matters into his own hands in defiance of regulations and the law. Do you deny you were demoted on these charges, Captain? DO NOT WAIT FOR THE TRANSLATION ANSWER ME NOW!

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
Don't answer - objection -!

JUDGE
Objection overruled. The Prisoner will answer the question.

KIRK
I cannot deny it.

CHANG
You were demoted...

KIRK
Yes.

CHANG
For insubordination.

KIRK
* I have on occasion disobeyed orders. *

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED: 87

CHANG
And were you obeying or disobeying orders the night you arranged the assassination of Chancellor Gorkon?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
(overlapping)
I object -!

KIRK
(overlapping)
I was unaware of the assassination until I boarded his ship!

CHANG
(overlapping)
You deny Enterprise fired on KRONOS One?

KIRK
Well, I -

CHANG
(overlapping)
You deny that your men beamed aboard KRONOS One and shot the Chancellor?

KIRK
I cannot confirm or deny actions which I did not witness.

CHANG
Captain Kirk, are you aware that under Federation law, the Captain of a Starship is considered responsible for the actions of his men?

KIRK
I am.

CHANG
So if it should prove members of your crew did in fact carry out such an assassination - ?

BONES
Jim! They're setting us up! Your honors, I protest-!

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED: 87

JUDGE
The defendant will be silent! Captain Kirk, you will answer the question.

KIRK
(heavily)
As captain I am responsible for the conduct of the crew under my command.

CHANG
Your honors, the State rests.

An excited BABBLE. Kirk and Bones turn to their attorney.

BONES
Is it our turn, now?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
(grim)
According to Klingon law both sides present their cases at the same time. We've HAD our turn.

On Bones' and Kirk's reaction, the Judge's mailed fist crashes down with a flurry of sparks.

JUDGE
It is the judgment of this court that the defendants are guilty as charged.

Sensation in court. A BOOMING CHANT "KOOM! KOOM!" as all the LIGHT SPEARS are pointed at Kirk and Bones. Chang is stone-faced. AGAIN, THE HORRIBLE GAUNTLET.

JUDGE
Captain James T. Kirk, Doctor Leonard M...

They face the Judges' box. INTERCUT THIS MOMENT WITH

88 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE - DAY 88

SPOCK'S FACE - What has he done?

89 INT. KLINGON COURTROOM 89

JUDGE
Have either of you anything to say before this court passes sentence?

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED: 89

Kirk and Bones look at each other.

BONES
(simply)
We were framed.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
(rises passionately)
I wish to note for the record that the evidence against my clients is entirely circumstantial. I beg the court to consider this when
* pronouncing its sentence. *

JUDGE
(beat)
So noted. In the interests of amity for the forthcoming peace talks, the sentence of death is commuted.
(ROAR topped by)
It is the judgement of this court that without possibility of reprieve or parole, you be taken from this place to the Dilithium Mines on the penal asteroid archipelago of Rura Penthe, there to spend the rest of your natural li[illegible]

OS Kirk's and Bones' reactions

90 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE 90

UHURA
(her eyes fill)
Rura Penthe!

CHEKOV
Known throughout the galaxy as the Aliens' graveyard.

SCOTTY
Better to kill them now and get it over with...

It takes Spock a moment to recover himself.

SPOCK
Let's see the torpedo hit again, Lieutenant.

Saavik instructs the panel. As attention is diverted, Spock mops his brow.

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED:

The CREW watch in silence as the MONITOR REPLAYS THE HIT. (Sc.46 VFXB)

(CONTINUED)

12

90 CONTINUED: 90

CHEKOV
(hopeless)
It is Enterprise. We fired.

As the replay indicates this, Spock stares...

SCOTTY
(anger & confusion)
It's na possible!! All weapons VISUALLY accounted for. Sir.

LT. SAAVIK
Commander? Is it not logical to consider ALL possibilities?
(off their looks)
This is most difficult to say, but has it occurred to...to any of us...that the Captain is... that is, we know his feelings about Klingons, what they did to his...

Spock's gaze stops her.

LT. SAAVIK
(continuing)
Well, it IS a possibility.

After an impenetrable pause -

SPOCK
Again.

Another replay as they watch. (OVERSHOULDER) (Sc.46 VFXC)

SPOCK
(continuing)
Hold.

They stare at the frozen image.

SPOCK
(continuing)
An ancestor of mine maintained that if you eliminate the impossible whatever remains - however improbable - must be the truth.

UHURA
What exactly does that mean?

SPOCK
It means that if we cannot have fired those torpedoes then someone else did.

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED: 90

SCOTTY
They dinna fire on themselves. And there were no other ships present.

SPOCK
(grasping at straws)
There was an enormous neutron energy surge.

SCOTTY
(insisting)
Not from us!

CHEKOV
(square one)
A neutron surge that big could only be produced by another ship...

UHURA
KRONOS One?

SPOCK
Too far off. Very near us. Perhaps..underneath us...

SCOTTY
If another ship had been beneath us, the Klingons would've been here.

SPOCK
Would they?

Long pause.

MR. SAAVIK
A Bird of Prey?

SPOCK
A Bird of Prey.

CHEKOV
Cloaked!?

Spock says nothing.

SCOTTY
A Bird of Prey canna fire when she's cloaked!

SPOCK
All things being equal, Mr. Scott, I would agree. However, all things are not equal: this one can.

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED: 90

SCOTTY
Then you're talking about a dreadful new engine of destruction, Mr. Spock.

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED: 90

SPOCK
I believe I am.

LT. SAAVIK
We must inform Starfleet Command -

SCOTTY
(enraged)
Inform them of what?? A new weapon that isn't visible? Raving lunatics - that's what they'll call us! They'll say we're so desperate to exonerate the Captain we'll say anything -

SPOCK
And they'd be right. We have no evidence - just a theory that happens to fit the facts...

[illegible]ORA
Even assuming you're correct, Mr. Spock, why would they fire on their own President?

SPOCK
(decision)
I want this ship searched from bow to stern. Lieutenant Saavik, you are in charge. Start with the transporter room and work your way outwards...

LT. SAAVIK
Aye sir -

CHEKOV
I do not understand. If there was a ship underneath us, surely the assassins beamed aboard from that vessel, not Enterprise.

SPOCK
You're forgetting something:
(off their looks)
the data banks say WE fired. If we did, the killers are here; if we didn't, whoever altered the data banks is here. Either way, what we're searching for is here...

CHEKOV
What ARE we searching for, Mr. Spock?

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED: 90

SPOCK
You tell them, Lieutenant.

* *

12

90A CLOSE ON LIEUTENANT SAAVIK 90A

It's elementary.

LT. SAAVIK
Two pairs of gravity boots.

Spock is well pleased with her.

91 EXT. RURA PENTHE PENAL COLONY - DAY 91

91 VFX THREE SUNS glare down on a huge vista: an ICE FIELD - the coldest habitable place in the solar system. 91 VFX

A small moving DARK MASS as we push in, REVEALS

FIFTEEN PRISONERS in leg irons and FIVE KLINGON GUARDS with JACKAL-MASTIFFS moving slowly across the frigid plain.

Kirk and Bones, likewise shackled, are among them. GUARDS and PRISONERS alike wear ragged furs.

They reach a lone TOTEM and a GUARD holds up his hand for a halt. He presses an instrument emitting a high-pitched WHINE.

In response, A HUGE TRAP DOOR, buried in the snow, yawns open. A KLINGON GUARD emerges from steps below and places a BOX before the gaping DOOR.

As Kirk and Bones watch, the COMMANDANT OF RURA PENTHE and his JACKAL MASTIFF emerge. He mounts the box.

COMMANDANT
This is the gulag Rura Penthe. Observe: there is no stockade, no guard tower, no electrified frontier. They are not needed. Only a magnetic shield prevents beaming. Your new home is underground.

He blows a mechanical WHISTLE: in response, TWO GUARDS emerge from below with a SCREAMING KLINGON CONVICT.

PRISONER
NO! NOOOOO!

COMMANDANT
Punishment means EXILE from prison to the surface - on the surface nothing can survive.

The GUARDS dump the screaming CONVICT on the ice - without furs. The weather immobilizes him at once - his cries become fainter.

(CONTINUED)

91 CONTINUED: 91

COMMANDANT
(continuing)
* Below no one can escape. Work well and you will be treated well. Work badly and you will die. *

He leaves; the box is removed by a guard and proceeds him through the huge door and down the steps.

91A LONG SHOT 91A

as the prisoners are herded after him and the door shuts, leaving the frozen vista as it was; snow flurries obscure the trap door almost instantly. Only the frozen corpse of the CONVICT is left - until it too is covered.

91B INT. RURA PENTHE 91B

START LOOKING UP AT THE CLOSING TRAP DOOR - outside we can see SNOW flurries as the panel shuts with a CLANG.

PAN DOWN TO REVEAL

A huge underground labyrinth with an enormous courtyard surrounded by prisoner huts open to the center. PRISONERS wander freely within. The scum of the universe.

Everyone wears furs, LEG IRONS and is FREEZING.

On endless scaffolding above the GUARDS.

Many of the PRISONERS look like they could snap Kirk and Bones in two with one hand.

Kirk and Bones step gingerly around the outside wall, watching the yard. A shadow falls across them.

Their POV: it's a behemoth ALIEN. He speaks in a guttural, incomprehensible language.

ALIEN
Qlog wok na pushnat.

KIRK
I'm afraid our universal translator was confiscated.

ALIEN
Ring notsa loskent!

(CONTINUED)

91B CONTINUED: 91B

KIRK
Sorry...

ALIEN
Rangnit ascru, unto pram moreoscue shondik!!!

BONES
He's definitely on about something.

ALIEN
Quog wok na pushnat!!

The alien picks Kirk up.

KIRK
* If this is your spot, we'll move on... *

The alien is about to behead Kirk.

MARTIA (O.S.)
He wants your obedience to the Brotherhood of Aliens.

KIRK
He's got it.

MARTIA
And your coat.

KIRK
Fraid not. It wouldn't fit him, anyway.

MARTIA
Krandog aranik.

The Alien puts Kirk down.

MARTIA
(continuing)
Fendo pompsky.

The Alien nods and wanders off.

KIRK
Thanks...

BONES
What's the Brotherhood of Aliens?

(CONTINUED)

91B CONTINUED: 91B

MARTIA
Prisoners from outside the Klingon system. They tend to band together. I'm Martia.

She's a tall and very good looking female, boots to her thighs, exotic furs, tattered but clearly humanoid. She's smoking something; offers them a hit.

MARTIA
(continuing)
This'll help keep you warm. You're Kirk and McCoy.

Kirk takes the hit; offers Bones...it does warm you.

KIRK
How did you know..?

MARTIA
(shrugs)
We don't get many presidential assassins.

KIRK
We didn't kill Gorkon.

MARTIA
(deadpan)
Of course not.
(looks around)
There's a reward for your death.

BONES
(looks around too)
Figures.

KIRK
We've been set up all along.

MARTIA
Somebody up there wants you out of the way.

BONES
I don't believe we can get more out of the way than this.

MARTIA
They'll make it look like an accident...

BONES
What are you in for, if you don't mind my asking?

(CONTINUED)

91B CONTINUED: 91B

MARTIA
I don't mind. Smuggling. Guilty. I come from Arc. Smuggling is an ancient and respected trade there.

KIRK
How much time's left of your sentence?

MARTIA
(smiles grimly)
Don't you know? Everyone on Rura Penthe is here for life.

Kirk and Bones didn't know.

92 INT. GALLEY, USS ENTERPRISE 92

Under Lieutenant Saavik's watchful eye, CREWMEN are taking the kitchen apart. All sorts of dishes and * cutlery litter the place. Spock and Chekov enter. *

SPOCK
Any progress?

LT. SAAVIK
* None. We've got a crew of three * hundred turning their own quarters inside out, but the killers may be among them. Surely they've disposed of these boots by now. Wouldn't it have been logical to leave them on Gorkon's ship?

SPOCK
Even logic[illegible] physics. Gravity hadn't been restored by the time they escaped. Without their boots they would not have stayed on the Klingon transporter pads.

CHEKOV
(mimes with his finger)
Why not simply vaporize them?

LT. SAAVIK
Like this?

* She grabs a PHASER from its wall mount and FIRES, * incinerating a POT.

ALARMS and CLAXONS HOWL! Chekov COVERS HIS EARS.

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED: 92

LT. SAAVIK
As you know, Commander Chekov, no one can fire an unauthorized phaser aboard a starship.

She switches off the ALARM and has another thought:

LT. SAAVIK
(continuing)
Suppose when they returned they threw the boots into the refuse?

SPOCK
I'm having the refuse searched. If my surmise is correct those boots will cling to the killers' necks like Tiberian bats. They couldn't make their escape without them; nor can they simply throw them out a window for all to see; no - they're here. Somewhere.

Uhura comes into the galley, stepping over pots and pans. She's not happy.

UHURA
Did someone shoot off a phaser? Mr. Spock.

He turns.

UHURA
(continuing)
I've pulled out my - uh wooden shoe and Starfleet is screaming for us to return to port.

Scotty enters.

SPOCK
Mr. Scott, any progress on repairing our warp drive?

SCOTTY
There's nothing wrong with the bloody -

(CONTINUED)

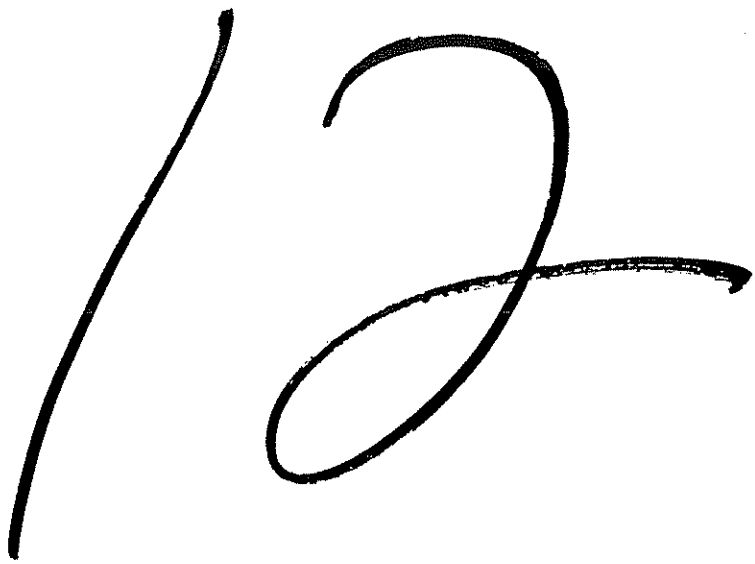
92 CONTINUED: 92

SPOCK
Mr. Scott, if we return to spacedock, the assassins will manage to dispose of their incriminating footwear and we will never see the Captain or Dr. McCoy alive again.

SCOTTY
- could take weeks, sir.

SPOCK
Thank you, Mr. Scott. Commander Uhura, inform Starfleet our warp drive is inoperative.

(CONTINUED)



92 CONTINUED: 92

LT. SAAVIK
A lie?

SPOCK
An error.

UHURA
(unhappily)
I'll tell them someone threw a gravity boot into it...

ANGLE ON SPOCK

reacting. He looks at Saavik...

LT. SAAVIK
Right, a gravity boot in the warp drive...

She goes off, shaking her head...

UHURA
You understand that we have lost all contact with the Captain and Dr. McCoy?

SPOCK
At present they are surrounded by a magnetic shield. If my calculations are correct, the Captain should be deep into his escape planning by this time.

93 INT. RURA PENTHE PENAL COLONY 93

Kirk gets hit in the face. It's already BLOODY. It's a prison fight. Kirk and the ALIEN are surrounded by PRISONERS & GUARDS cheering and jeering.

Kirk and Bones are distinctly outnumbered.

Kirk scrambles to his feet and circles. The Alien swings a large paw but Kirk ducks, comes in with an uppercut. He connects, but does little damage. They circle some more. The Alien dives legs first and scissors Kirk, who goes down roughly. Wrestling, Kirk slips free.

Bones and Martia watch...the leg irons make it complicated -they can also wrap around someone's neck...

The Alien moves in closely, hits Kirk again. Kirk fights back with a kick to the chest, which doubles over the Alien.

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED: 93

Then Kirk slams the ALIEN on the neck and he goes down. Kirk starts to walk away.

But a paw reaches out and grabs him by the ankle. Kirk looks back and the Alien is grinning, drags him in. Stands and grips Kirk chest to back in a giant bear hug. Surely he will crush the life out of Kirk.

He lifts Kirk right off the ground. Kirk, almost gone, lifts his legs up high and swings down hard, smashing the Alien in the knee. That does it. The Alien falls to the ground, screaming and holding his knee.

Kirk staggers away catching his breath.

BONES
You okay?

MARTIA
They'll respect you now...

KIRK
That's a comfort...I was lucky that thi[illegible]ad knees.

They look back. The Alien is still on the ground.

MARTIA
That's not his knee.
(off Kirk's look)
Not everybody keeps their genitals in the same place, captain.

KIRK
Anything you want to tell me?

Before she can answer.

KIRK
(continuing)
Bones, why don't you see what you can do? Let him know we're not holding a grudge.

BONES
Suppose HE'S holding a grudge?

Bones tentatively goes forward and examines the knee. He is without any medical tools of any kind.

Kirk looks at Martia. She shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED: 93

MARTIA
When whoever it is makes their move, you won't be here to ask if he's the one.
(pause)
You want to get out of here?

KIRK
There's gotta be a way...

She looks at him, moves off...

The Alien yells but lets Bones manipulate the leg...

BONES
(looks down)
Hot damn, Jim, she's right...!

94 OMITTED 94

95 INT. SULU'S CABIN, USS EXCELSIOR 95

Sulu is asleep; awakened by a knock.

SULU
Come in.

His COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER enters.

OFFICER
Sorry to wake you, sir, but Starfleet urgently requests any data we may have on the whereabouts of Enterprise.

SULU
(groggy)
What?

OFFICER
Apparently they're refusing to acknowledge signal to return to spacedock, Sir.

SULU
Signal Starfleet that... we have no idea location Enterprise.

OFFICER
(astonished)
Sir?

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED: 95

SULU
You have hearing problems, mister?

OFFICER
No, sir.

(CONTINUED)

012

95 CONTINUED: 95

He salutes and leaves. Sulu stays awake. DISSOLVE:

96 INT. HUT ON RURA PENTHE - NIGHT 96

Kirk and Bones sleep on rude bunk beds in a shaft off the main courtyard: tattered, exhausted wrecks.

BONES
Three months till retirement. What a way to finish.

KIRK
(thinking)
We're not finished.

BONES
Speak for yourself. One day...one night...

He makes a gesture across his own throat.

BONES
(continuing)
- Kobyashi Maru...

CLOSE ON KIRK

KIRK
Bones... are you afraid of the future.

Bones tries to find a comfortable position.

BONES
That was the general idea I intended to convey.

KIRK
I didn't mean this future.

BONES
Are we playing multiple choice?

An ALIEN CLAW flops over the side from the bunk above.

KIRK
Some people ARE afraid of the future; of what MIGHT happen;
(pause)
I was frightened, really frightened.

Another ALIEN CLAW flops down...

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED: 96

BONES
I've looked death in the eye a thousand times and tried to be professional about it. Of course it wasn't usually MY death I was looking at.
(pause)
What frightened you specifically?

* ANOTHER ALIEN CLAW over the side... *

(CONTINUED)

12

96 CONTINUED: 96

KIRK
(shrugs)
No more neutral zone. I was USED to hating Klingons...that's why I failed in our assignment. It never even occurred to me to take Gorkon at his word. Spock was right.

* Another CLAW... *

BONES
Well, don't be too hard on yourself - we all felt exactly the same -

KIRK
(shakes his head; can't put his finger)
Uh uh. Somebody felt much worse. And I'm starting to understand why.

BONES
Well, if you've got any bright ideas, now's the time to-

KIRK
Time's the problem. You heard the judge: the peace conference is on again. Whoever killed Gorkon will sandbag the whole thing all over... unless we find a way out of here.

* Bones puts a finger on his lips. A BOULDER rolls downhill and stops. They pretend to sleep. Something crawls towards them in the dark; they sweat. Kirk clenches his fists... *

MARTIA
(whispers)
Kirk? It's me, Martia.

Kirk opens his eyes; Bones plays possum.

MARTIA
(continuing)
Listen. No one has ever escaped from Rura Penthe.

KIRK
(ready)
Except us.

MARTIA
It IS possible.

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED: 96

KIRK
(shrugs)
No more neutral zone. I was USED to hating Klingons... that's why I failed in our assignment. It never even occured to me to take Gorkon at his word. Spock was right.

Another claw...

BONES
Well, don't be too hard on yourself - we all felt exactly the same...

KIRK
(shakes his head; can't put his finger)
Uh uh. Somebody felt much worse. And I'm starting to understand why.

BONES
Well, if you've got any bright ideas, now's the time to --

KIRK
Time's the problem. You and I don't count - we're just a couple of pawns in someone else's chess game. But you heard the judge: the peace conference is on again. Whoever killed Gorkon will sandbag the thing all over... unless we find a way out of here.

Bones puts a finger on his lips. A BOULDER rolls downhill and stops. They pretend to sleep. Something crawls towards them in the dark; they sweat...Kirk clenches his fists...

MARTIA
(whispers)
Kirk. It's me, Martia.

Kirk opens his eyes. Bones plays possum.

MARTIA
(continuing)
Listen. No one has ever escaped from Rura Penthe.

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED: 97

KIRK
Except us.

MARTIA
It IS possible.

He regards her warily.

MARTIA
(continuing)
I know how to get outside the shield.

KIRK
Where do we come in?

MARTIA
Getting outside the shield is easy. After that it's up to you to get us off the surface before we freeze. Can you?

KIRK
Possibly.

MARTIA
I can't make it alone. You're the likeliest candidate to come to this hellhole in months.

KIRK
Candidate for what?

Their whispering has brought them very close. Martia is vamping him. She pulls off her fur hood... kisses him. He doesn't resist.

97 ANGLE ON BONES 97

rolls his eyes

MARTIA
Go to lift seven in the morning for mining duty. I'll see you there.

She disappears into the shadows.

(CONTINUED)

97 CONTINUED: 97

* KIRK *
I think I've been alien-ated...

Bones gets up on one elbow.

BONES
What is it with you, anyway?

KIRK
Still think we're finished?

BONES
More than ever.

98 EXT. RURA PENTHE ASTEROID - NIGHT 98

the wind howls in an otherwise barren landscape.

99 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM, USS ENTERPRISE 99

Chekov examines the platform and environs carefully. He comes across spots of VIOLET. He scrapes samples into an evidence tube, seals it; hurries out.

* 100 INT. SCIENCE LAB, USS ENTERPRISE (FORMERLY SPOCK'S QTR) 100 *

Spock studies the sample under a microscope.

SPOCK
Klingon blood.

CHEKOV
They must have walked through it when it was floating and tracked it back here.

SPOCK
This is the first evidence that corroborates our theory.

CHEKOV
Now we go to Starfleet?

SPOCK
Now we expand our search to include uniforms.

CHEKOV
ALL uniforms?

* Spock looks at him. *

* CHEKOV *
(starts out)
Aye, sir...ALL uniforms...

* SPOCK *
Mister Chekov

* Chekov turns. *

* SPOCK *
(continuing)
The longer we take, the greater danger in which we leave the Captain and Doctor McCoy.

101 THRU 105 MONTAGE: the Enterprise is strip-searched. LOCKERS, WARDROOMS, LAUNDRY, SICKBAY, JEFFRIES TUBE, CUPBOARDS, OBSERVATION DECK, INSTRUMENTS PANELS, etc..you name it...piles and piles of CLOTHING being sorted by the CREW; piles of BOOTS being examined as Lieutenant Saavik prowls the CORRIDORS and checks off locations on a LIGHTPLAN of the ship... 101 THRU 105

106 INT. CREW QUARTERS 106

Suddenly an EXCLAMATION brings her running over.

(CONTINUED)

106 CONTINUED: 106

A CREWMAN has opened a LOCKER and now holds up an enormous gravity BOOT. As all watch, he puts the boot on THE METAL LOCKER...

It sticks.

Saavik looks up at the locker and sees the name: DAX.
* Poker-faced triumph. *

107 INT. CREW QUARTERS 107

LATER

Spock, Saavik, Uhura, Chekov, et al wait with impassive

(CONTINUED)

12

107 CONTINUED: 107

faces as CREWMAN DAX enters the area. He is an alien.

SPOCK
You are Crewman Dax?

DAX
Yes, sir. What's happened?

CHEKOV
(triumphant)
Perhaps you know Romulan epic of Cinderella? If shoe fits, wear it!

Dax looks confused.

108 CAMERA PANS DOWN HIS LEGS 108

no way those webbed feet could make it into those boots.

Expressions of chagrin on everyone's face...

109 INT. RURA PENTHE PENAL COLONY - MORNING 109

Kirk and Bones, their legs still shackled, walk across the huge courtyard and line up behind a dozen brutes, everyone flapping arms to keep warm...

They wait in front of and then enter the C Lift.

* 110 INT. LIFT 7 (FORMERLY SHUTTLE TRUCK) - DESCENDING 110 *

Like the old Welsh mine cage elevators.

BONES
(looks for the girl)
think we've been had.

MARTIA'S VOICE
No you haven't, doctor.

They look around for the girl. Just a big BRUTE next to them. Plus other CONVICTS.

MARTIA'S VOICE
Get off at the first level and join the gang going into the mine.
(explains)
They don't take girls.

It's him! With her voice, Kirk is thunderstruck. He stares at the Brute.

110 VFX OR MODEL: THE LIFT LIGHTS DISAPPEAR INTO BLACKNESS 110 VFX

111 INT. MINE - DAY 111

THE LIFT DOORS OPEN

Kirk and Bones climb out with the others. They follow the Brute through the labyrinthine darkness.

BONES
What kind of a creature is this? Last night you two were spooning -

KIRK
Don't remind me.

112 OMITTED 112

113 INSIDE THE MINE 113

Everyone is issued a DRILL and a LIGHT HELMET. As BEAMS ricochet about, they start digging DILITHIUM crystals out of the rock and putting them on a flatbed shuttle. Kirk and Bones and the Brute do likewise, all under the watchful eye of fur-clad KLINGON GUARDS.

An ALIEN next to Kirk sneaks several of the crystals into his garment.

113 VFX A GUARD blasts him with a PHASER and he disappears. 113 VFX

Bones openly takes his crystal and places it on the truck, making sure the guard sees him.

114 LATER - INT. MINE 114

Kirk and Bones are filthy and sweaty. The Brute looks at them, looks around. The guards are eating with their backs turned. Kirk and Bones look to the Brute for guidance.

* 114 VFX Before their eyes, he re-materializes into a TEN YEAR OLD GIRL. 114 VFX *

115 CU HER SKINNY LEGS 115

as Kirk and Bones watch, she slips out of her leg irons. Too bad they can't do likewise...

MARTIA'S VOICE
(whispers)
Follow me.

(CONTINUED)

115 CONTINUED: 115

She puts her DRILL down and walks silently into the depths of the mine. They follow, looking back to make sure the Guards aren't watching.

The girl quickly scrambles through a small hole, turns and waves them on. They have to get down on their stomachs and crawl through. Kirk goes first, turns, pulls Bones. This takes time, especially if your legs have chains on them...

116 ON THE GUARDS 116

who finish their lunch and look around. Notice a suspicious space where 3 workers used to be. Wander over. Look further into the mine. Find the hole. They hurry back, shouting.

117 INT. MINE TUNNEL - ON THE TRIO 117

The hole has led to a new tunnel and the girl rematerializes into THE BRUTE as they crawl. Kirk and Bones, still chained, struggle to keep up.

They make their way to a large, abandoned opening and come out on

118 EXT. THE MINE, RURA PENTHE - DAY 118

a high ice ledge. By scrambling down the ledge and jumping, the BRUTE leads them onto the frigid snowfield. The surface environment is killing.

119 LATER - EXT. FROZEN RIVER - DAY 119

The three slip and slide on the ice across a frozen river. The ICE BEGINS TO CRACK beneath their feet...

Eventually the three climb the farther bank. They are barely alive. Shaking

BONES
I can't...

Frantically, Kirk tries to keep Bones' circulation going.

MARTIA
We're at the edge of the shield.

119 They follow her look: AN ICE DESERT. 119
VFX VFX

KIRK
Come on. KEEP MOVING!

* They stagger on. *

119A INT. SPOCK'S QUARTERS 119A

Spock, out of uniform, reclines in his berth, eyes open; thinking. His expression changes.

119B HIS POV 119B

The votive candle burning in its shrine. Spock's eyes narrow. What is the candle trying to tell him...?

Now his gaze lights on the Chagall. Spock stares. It's on the tip of his mind.

UHURA'S VOICE OVER
Mr. Spock, I've got them!

120 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE 120

A blinking BLIP on Uhura's oscilloscope.

* PULL BACK. Uhura is monitoring their position. Spock, Scotty and Chekov stand over her shoulder. Spock heads for his console and starts peering at electronic charts... *

SPOCK
They're outside the beaming shield. Mr. Scott, start your engines.

SCOTTY
Aye, aye, sir.

Scotty heads for the lift.

* SPOCK *
Mr. Chekov, set a course for Rura Penthe...

CHEKOV
(from the helm)
Mr. Spock, Rura Penthe's deep in Klingon territory. If we're discovered...

SPOCK
(looks up)
Quite right, Mr. Chekov. What is now required is a feat of linguistic legerdemain - and a degree of intrepidity. Before the Captain and Doctor McCoy freeze to death.

120 OMITTED 120
VFX VFX

120A INT. KLINGON LISTENING POST 120A

Grimy, underfunded and undermanned. God knows what forsaken place this is. Rocks and lit by SCOPES...

A SLEEPY KLINGON dozes before his scanners. A bottle in front of him tells the story. SUDDENLY A BLIP. HE forces himself into alert attention.

120B HIS POV 120B

On the scope a BEEPING DOT...he frowns, hits a switch.

SLEEPY KLINGON
(subtitled KLINGON)
What ship is that? Over...

An interminable pause. Now a SECOND KLINGON sits next to the first. What's going on?

VOICE FILTERED
(subtitled KLINGON)
We am thy freighter...URSVA six weeks out of...Kronos. .Over...

KLINGON
(subtitled KLINGON)
Whither are you bound? Over...

Another LONG pause. They squint at the delay.

121 OMITTED 121 VFX
VFX

122 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 122

Uhura and company are FRANTICALLY paging through old Klingon glossaries, manuals and dictionaries.

UHURA
(subtitled KLINGON)
We is condemning food...things and...supplies to Rura Penthe... over...

Pause...

KLINGON VOICE FILTERED
(subtitled KLINGON)
Don't catch any bugs!

The VOICE LAUGHS RAUCOUSLY. Spock gestures. Uhura returns the laugh...over and out. They look at each other.

SPOCK
Was that so bad?

* 123 THRU 125VFX OMITTED 123 THRU 125VFX *

126 EXT. RURA PENTHE ICE DESERT - DUSK 126

126 VFX THE THREE COLD SUNS are setting. 126 VFX

The Brute, Kirk and Bones stumble and crawl across the ice. They - especially Bones - are more dead than alive.

As they pull themselves along, it becomes darker...

BONES
Jim, leave me - I'm finished...

KIRK
No way.
(off Bones' look)
You see this?

* He displays a STAIN on the back of his ragged coat. *

KIRK
(continuing)
It's the viridium patch Spock slapped on my back right before we went aboard Gorkon's ship.

BONES
(faint)
That cunning little Vulcan...

KIRK
Once we're beyond the shield they should be able to pick it up two sectors away.

(CONTINUED)

* 126 CONTINUED: 126 *

BONES
If they're even looking for us...

KIRK
Spock's looking for us...

MARTIA'S VOICE
(the Brute points to a ridge)
We're almost there. Once we're outside, we'll make camp...

DISSOLVE TO:

127 LATER - EXT. ICE DESERT RIDGE - NIGHT 127

the ridge in darkness. They arrive, exhausted.

The Brute takes a stick out of its clothes, breaks it in half. It glows brightly like a neon FLARE. He tosses it in the middle of the area and it forms a kind of fire, throwing shadows all around. Otherwise it's dark. There is some HEAT.

BONES
Would you mind explaining that little trick you do?

MARTIA'S VOICE
I'm a chameloid. That's why we're such good smugglers.

KIRK
I've heard of chameloids - "Shapeshifters" - I thought you were mythical.

MARTIA'S VOICE
Give a girl a chance, captain.

The Brute smiles at him.

127 VFXA And before his eyes becomes the enticing Martia again. 127 VFXA

MARTIA
It takes a lot of effort.

BONES
I don't wonder. Stop me if I'm wrong but do we really have any way of knowing if this is the real you?

(CONTINUED)

127 CONTINUED: 127

KIRK
If you say so.

WHAM! He slugs Martia on the jaw; she goes down, her mouth running GREEN blood.

BONES
ARE YOU CRAZY?

KIRK
She didn't need our help getting anywhere...where did she get these convenient clothes? And don't tell me that flare is standard prison issue...

127 VFXB Martia sits, rubbing her mouth...and CHANGING... 127 VFXB

KIRK
(continuing)
It's to let them kno[illegible]ere we are. Ask he[illegible] what she'[illegible] gettin[illegible] in return...

The BRUTE gets up, rubbing his bl[illegible]ding mouth - NOW THE BLOOD IS BLUE..!

MARTIA'[illegible] VOICE
A full pardon - wh[illegible]ch doesn't cover this -

BONES
Uh oh -

Kirk and the Brute circle each other, Kirk's chains CLANKING...

KIRK
An accident wasn't good enough...

MARTIA'S VOICE
Good enough for one - two would look suspicious...killed while attempting escape...now that's convincing for both.

* 127 VFXC The fight is on. Problem is, Martia keeps changing shapes...Kirk grabs the BRUTE, hugging hard. One of them (Kirk, Brute, Bones?) WIPES FRAME and when we CONTINUE, 127 VFXC *

(CONTINUED)

* 127 VFXC CONTINUED: 127 VFXC *

KIRK is waltzing with WIDE JAWS, which SPITS something disgusting at him before PULLING HIM DOWN BEHIND A SNOWBANK...

Bones takes a look behind the bank...

BONES

Yuck...

He steps back as Kirk rises, this time encircled by something like the TENTACLED ALIEN from John Hurt's chest.

It pulls him down behind the snowbank again. When he rises a second time, the TENTACLED ALIEN has become a MINIATURE FEMALE.

* 127 VFXD Kirk has been so energetically PUSHING AWAY her predecessor that she is readily able to escape his clutches and tries to run past Bones, who grabs her by the ankle and they fall rolling to the ground.. 127 VFXD *

(CONTINUED)

127 CONTINUED: 127

127 it comes up an exact copy of JAMES T. KIRK! 127
VFXE VFXE

MARTIA'S VOICE
Surprise!

He smashes Bones and leaps to face his double...

KIRK
Your friends are late...

MARTIA'S VOICE
They'll be here...

More fighting between Kirk and "Kirk" - they clinch.

KIRK
I can't believe I kissed you.

"KIRK"
Must have been your lifelong ambition.

The fight goes on!

128 INT. OFFICERS' MESS, USS ENTERPRISE 128

Deserted. Scotty, exhausted, is quietly having a cup of coffee and checking off places searched on a table map.

He runs a finger around his collar. It's warm in here...

Perplexed, he puts his hand over the vent. Nothing coming out. Something blocking it?

Scotty commences removing the vent cover. Not easy.

As he continues his efforts, he is unaware of the TWO CREWMEN we met the night of the banquet, watching. They remain concealed, pull knives...one wants to go for Scotty. The other holds him back.

Scotty removes the vent cover and pulls out what's been blocking the air circulation: two violet-stained Starfleet uniforms, with names on them...

Excited by his discovery, Scotty looks around, replaces
* the vent cover and hurries out with the uniforms. *

129 INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDORS 129
THRU THRU
131 The Crewmen follow surreptitiously, CAMERA tracking 131
after Scotty through the labyrinthine corridors..

132 EXT. RURA PENTHE CAMPSITE - NIGHT 132

The TWO KIRKS are still slugging it out as Bones starts to come round.

KIRK
Isn't it about time you became something else?

MARTIA'S VOICE
I like it here...

Gripping each other, they roll right into

A LARGE AND TERRIFYING MUZZLE. A JACKAL-MASTIFF on a leash.

Both Kirks spring apart...

They are surrounded by a dozen FUR-GARBED KLINGON GUARDS with weapons. SEVERAL have leashed jackal-mastiffs. And the COMMANDANT, who walks forward.

KIRK
(thinks fast)
What took you so long?

MARTIA'S VOICE
Kill him! He's the one!

KIRK
Not me, idiot - HIM!

132 VFXA The Commandant appears briefly confused, then ZAPS the FALSE Kirk, who dies horribly, as Bones watches. Kirk sighs. 132 VFXA

COMMANDANT
(smiles)
No witnesses -

He aims at Kirk and Bones -

BONES
(conversational)
Damned clever if you ask me...

KIRK
(agrees)
Killed trying to escape - it's a classic...

COMMANDANT
That's what he wanted...

(CONTINUED)

132 CONTINUED: 132

KIRK
Who? Who wants us killed?

COMMANDANT
Why not tell you? His name is -

132 SUDDENLY KIRK AND BONES DEMATERIALIZE! 132
VFXB VFXB

KIRK'S VOICE FADING
SONOVABITCH!!

As the Klingons rake the place they were with FIRE!

133 INT. ENTERPRISE TRANSPORTER ROOM 133

133 Kirk and Bones REMATERIALIZE to where Spock 133
VFXA and Chekov await them, with heavy weather BLANKETS, VFXA
which they don gratefully. They look scarcely
recognizable. Spock and Chekov are appalled.

KIRK'S RISING
(continuing)
Dammit! Dammit all to Hell--!
Jesus Christ, couldn't you wait two
secondsbefore GODDAMNSONOVABITCH!

133 Chekov produces a LASER and burns thru their chains. 133
VFXB Spock is deeply moved to see Kirk again - though Kirk VFXB
is too busy swearing as his chains are cut off to
notice...

SPOCK
Captain--?

KIRK
He was just about to explain the
whole damn -

UHURA
Who -?

CHEKOV
You want to go back -?

* BONES *
(hasty)
ABSOLUTELY NOT!

KIRK
Come on...

They start out at speed.

134 CONTINUED: 134

SPOCK
Not entirely. I have reason to believe Gorkon's murderers are aboard this vessel.

KIRK
* They're the key to the whole conspiracy...Has the peace conference begun? *

CHEKOV
Who knows? They are keeping the location secret...

Kirk never breaks his stride.

KIRK
There's always something...

(CONTINUED)

012

134 CONTINUED: 134

Scotty runs up, carrying the bloodstained uniforms.

SCOTTY
Captain - ! Mr. Spock, I've found the missing uniforms with Klingon blood on them! They belong to -

They round the corner and all STOP SHORT.

135 Their POV 135

the TWO CREWMEN who were stalking Scotty lie dead. Bones kneels, conducting a hasty examination.

SCOTTY
(continuing)
But - the uniforms - they belong to these men!
(checks the names)
Burke and Samno!

BONES
* Not any more. Phaser on "Stun" - at close range. *

KIRK
First rule of assassination: always kill the assassins.

SCOTTY
Now we're back to square one.

Kirk looks at Spock meaningfully.

KIRK
Can I talk to you?

As they watch, Kirk and Spock move down the corridor and confer in an undertone.

136 CU SPOCK 136

* pulls back, deathly white. *

* *

136A CU PA SPEAKER 136A

PA VOICE OVER
Attention: Court Recorder to sick bay. Yeomen Burke and Samno have been shot and wish to make statements. CODE BLUE URGENT; deposition required at once for Yeomen Burke and Samno. Wounds are serious. Court Recorder to sick bay on the double.

136B VARIOUS ANGLES 136B

CREW reacting ALL OVER THE SHIP...to various PA's...

136C INT. SICK BAY 136C

All the lights are OUT. A FIGURE ENTERS, looks around.

136D FIGURE'S POV 136D

TWO BODIES stretched out in darkness...

THE FIGURE approaches the first body; looks down. SUDDENLY the light goes ON REVEALING SPOCK.

SPOCK
You have to shoot.

Saavik.

SPOCK
(continuing)
If you are logical.

LT. SAAVIK
I don't want to.

SPOCK
I believe you. But what you want is irrelevant; what you have chosen is at hand.

She produces a phaser. The other body sits up: Kirk.

KIRK
I'd just as soon you didn't.

Saavik reacts. Bones emerges from the shadows, arms folded.

(CONTINUED)

136D CONTINUED: 136D

BONES
The operation is over.

137 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 137

CU KIRK

KIRK
Anyone else aboard this ship?
(off her look)
Let's not waste time, Lieutenant. Name your co-conspirators and give us the location of the peace conference. In exchange, I'll retain the murder charge and drop the rest of the specifications. Commander Uhura, make a record of everything said by the prisoner.

UHURA
Aye, sir.

WIDEN TO REVEAL

Saavik under guard.

LT. SAAVIK
You cannot prove anything...

KIRK
Yes I can. At my trial my personal log was introduced as evidence against me.

137A THRU 137D OMITTED 137A THRU 137D

137E QUICK FLASH BACK (TO SCENE 32) 137E

Saavik waiting outside Kirk's cabin.

KIRK'S VOICE OVER
* How long did you stand outside my quarters before I noticed Lieutenant? *

137F BACK TO SCENE 137F

Saavik, trapped, turns to Spock.

LT. SAAVIK
You knew?

(CONTINUED)

137F CONTINUED:

He says nothing.

LT. SAAVIK
(continuing)
I tried to tell you... you wouldn't listen.

Spock is in as much pain as we will ever see.

SPOCK
Neither of us was hearing very well that night, Lieutenant. There were things I tried to tell YOU - about faith.

LT. SAAVIK
You have betrayed the Federation - all of you.

BONES
What do you think YOU'VE been doing?

LT. SAAVIK
Saving Starfleet. Klingons can't be trusted, sir, you said so yourself. They killed your son. You'd make peace with THEM? Did you not wish Gorkon dead? "Let them die," you said. Did I misinterpret you?

He can't look at her.

LT. SAAVIK
(continuing)
And you were right: they conspired with us to assassinate their own Chancellor: how trustworthy can they be?

KIRK
Who is "US"?

LT. SAAVIK
Everyone who stands to lose from peace. The universe was a well-ordered place. We all knew our roles. Why change them?

KIRK
NAMES, Lieutenant...

UHURA
We can send a message to Starfleet Command -

(CONTINUED)

137F CONTINUED: 137F

LT. SAAVIK
Unlikely. Enterprise has disobeyed orders and harbors two escaped convicts. All your ship-to-shore transmissions will be jammed.

KIRK
Spock.

Spock approaches and puts a hand on Saavik's face: the mind meld. She tries to avoid it. Spock concentrates...

SPOCK
(finally)
Admiral Donald.

137G QUICK FLASHBACK (TO SCENE 23) 137G

ADMIRAL DONALD
...to offer the Klingons a safe haven within Federation space is suicide.

137H BACK TO SCENE 137H

CHEKOV
From Starfleet??

KIRK
Who else.

Spock concentrates.

SPOCK
General Chang -

137J QUICK FLASHBACK (TO SCENE 40) 137J

CHANG
...In space all warriors are cold warriors...

137K BACK TO SCENE 137K

UHURA
Gorkon's own man??

KIRK
Who else?

SPOCK
(concentrates)
The Romulan Ambassador - Nanclus...

137L QUICK FLASHBACK (TO SCENE 63) 137L

NANCLUS
Mr. President, they ARE vulnerable.

* 137M BACK TO SCENE 137M *

SCOTTY
This is incredible -

BONES
Is she telling us Klingons and Federation members are conspiring TOGETHER..?

KIRK
(to Spock)
Where IS the conference?

Spock tries again. Shakes his head. Removes his hand.

SPOCK
She doesn't know.

SCOTTY
Then we're dead.

(CONTINUED)

137P CONTINUED: 137P

SPOCK
(suddenly)
The peace conference.

KIRK
What peace conference?

SPOCK
Azetbur has agreed to meet the Federation at an undisclosed location to continue her father's work...the conspirators obviously intend to try again...

They turn to Saavik; she stares back, composed.

UHURA
We can send a message to Starfleet Command -

LT. SAAVIK
I do not think so. Enterprise has disobeyed orders and harbors two escaped convicts. Admiral Donald will make certain all your ship-to-shore transmissions are jammed.

CHEKOV
Where IS the conference?

KIRK
She's only a cog in the wheel - no way she knows that.

LT. SAAVIK
And no way you'll find out.

SCOTTY
Then we're dead.

(CONTINUED)

* 137M CONTINUED: 137M *

SPOCK
(to Saavik)
I've been dead before. Uhura, raise Excelsior. She ought to have the co-ordinates.

KIRK
Why would they give them to us?

SPOCK
The Commander is an old friend of yours.

BONES
(can't resist)
What was it like - being dead?

Spock, lost in thought, doesn't answer.

SULU (O.S.)
This is Captain Sulu, USS Excelsior.

KIRK
Sulu!

INTERCUT WITH

* 137N OMITTED 137N *
AND AND
137P 137P

138 INT. MAIN BRIDGE, USS EXCELSIOR 138

SULU
Standing by, Captain Kirk.

KIRK
You understand that by even talking to us you're violating regulations, Captain.

SULU
I'm sorry, Captain - your message is breaking up.

KIRK
(under his breath)
Bless you, Sulu
(aloud)
Where's the peace conference? They're going to attempt another assassination.

(CONTINUED)

138 CONTINUED: 138

SULU
The Conference is at Camp Khitomer, near the Romulan border. I'm sending the exact coordinates on a coded frequency.

KIRK
I'm afraid we may need more than that. There's a Bird of Prey on the lookout for us. And she can fire while she's cloaked.

SULU
Surely not.

KIRK
I'm telling you. Hang on.
(to Saavik)
How many of those things are there? Come on, Lieutenant, you want any more of your brain drained?

LT. SAAVIK
Just the prototype.

KIRK
You hear that?

SULU
I'm getting underway now. But I'm now in Alpha Quadrant. The chances of my reaching the conference in time are slim.

KIRK
When does this conference start?

SULU
According to my information, today.

KIRK
Thank you, Captain Sulu.

SULU
Don't mention it, Captain Kirk.

He hangs up. Finds himself facing his 1st OFFICER.

FIRST OFFICER
Sir - ! You realize you've just committed treason.

(CONTINUED)

138 CONTINUED: 138

Sulu puts his feet up on the console...

SULU
(serene)
To be candid, I always hoped that if the choice ever came down to betraying my country or betraying my friend, I'd have the guts to betray my country. Warp nine, mister.

139 EXT. SPACE 139
VFX Excelsior explodes across the starfield. VFX

140 EXT. SPACE 140
VFX From a different direction, Enterprise ditto. VFX

141 INT. SPOCK'S QUARTERS 141

The lights are dim as Kirk knocks. He has shaved, showered and put on a fresh uniform.

KIRK
Spock?

No answer. Kirk makes to hit the switch.

SPOCK
I'd prefer it dark.

Fair enough. Kirk enters.

KIRK
Are you dining on ashes?

SPOCK
(finally)
You were right: it was arrogant presumption that got us into this situation. You might have died.

KIRK
The night is young. Anyway, you said it yourself: it was logical. Peace is worth a few personal risks.
(he must feel his way)
You know, you're a great one for logic. I'm a great one for...
(shrugs)
rushing in where angels fear to tread. We're both extremists. Reality is probably somewhere in between us.

(CONTINUED)

141 CONTINUED: 141

Spock says nothing. Kirk runs a finger over dust.

KIRK
(continuing)
I couldn't see past the death of my
* son. Who will I be if I have no *
enemy?
(shrugs)
I couldn't trust.

SPOCK
I trusted too much. I was
prejudiced by her achievements as a
Vulcan...

KIRK
(understands)
Gorkon had to die before I
understood how prejudiced I was...

Spock looks at him for the first time.

SPOCK
Can we two have grown so old and
inflexible that we have outlived
our usefulness?
(looks at Kirk)
* Would that constitute a joke? *

KIRK
Someone said the difference between
comic and cosmic is the letter "S."
Spock, don't crucify yourself. It
wasn't your fault.

SPOCK
I WAS responsible.

KIRK
Not for any actions but your own.

SPOCK
That's not what you said at your
trial -

KIRK
As Captain. That's different.
Human beings -

(CONTINUED)

141 CONTINUED: 141

SPOCK
But I am not human. I am only -

KIRK
Spock you want to know something?

Spock looks at him. Kirk kneels next to him.

KIRK
(continuing)
Everyone's human.

SPOCK
You insult me.

KIRK
(gently insisting)
Only human.

SPOCK
Racist.

KIRK
Vulcan. Come on. I need you.

He holds out his hand; after hesitating, Spock takes it, presses it to his forehead. Hard. HARDER.

142 EXT. CAMP KHITOMER, ROMULA - DAY 142

The idyllic site of the Peace Conference. Lush GREEN. A HUGE BUILDING on the horizon from within which we can HEAR MUSIC. Outside, MASSES OF PEOPLE and FLAGS... (MATTE PAINTING).

142A INT. CAMP KHITOMER - [illegible] 142A

INSIDE HUGE #1 POD DOORS OPENING, REVEALING THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

(CONTINUED)

142A

142A CONTINUED:

VERY LOUD MUSIC as we follow the FEDERATION DELEGATION (GREEN), lead by DONALD, into the ROOM...REVERSE ON #2 POD DOORS OPENING, AS SAREK LEADS THE VULCAN DELEGATION (YELLOW?) in as they take their places...

143

143 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

Everyone at their stations. Kirk in the Captain's chair.

CHEKOV
Captain, when we get to Camp Khitomer, how will we defend ourselves? I mean, if this new Bird of Prey can fire while she is invisible..?

BONES
Now there's a poser.

Kirk and Spock exchange looks.

SPOCK
I do not think anxiety is called for.

(off their looks)
According to my calculations we have another five minutes and twenty two seconds to resolve this dilemma.

144
VFX

144 EXT. SPACE
VFX

Enterprise THUNDERS by at warp NINE.

145

145 INT. CAMP KHITOMER CONFERENCE SITE - DAY

More of the opening ceremonies.

CAMERA PANS TO REVEAL POD #3 with the KLINGON DELEGATION (BROWN?), lead by their AMBASSADOR and POD #4 EARTH (GREEN) DELEGATION emerging and taking their places...the Klingon and UFP PRESIDENTS, complete with ADVISERS, RETINUES, ENTOURAGES and ATTENDANTS. FLAGS everywhere...

Among them COLONEL WORF, BRIGADIER KERLA, ADMIRAL DONALD, the MUNITIONS BUSINESSMAN and a KLINGON FACE we haven't seen before...

(CONTINUED)

145 CONTINUED: 145

The MUSIC THUNDERS to a halt. The place looks like the UN Security Council + the Olympics. All COLOR CODED...

UFP PRESIDENT
Madam Chancellor, members of the diplomatic corps, honored guests: the United Federation of Planets welcomes you to Camp Khitomer. Now that we are assembled, I move we conclude these ceremonies and get down to business. Madam Chancellor?

[illegible]LETBUR
Agreed.

APPLAUSE!

During th[illegible] above, we catch [illegible]e expressions on the faces of the VA[illegible]IOUS CONSPIRATORS - uneasy. Other FACES...w[illegible]ich one?

* 145A EXT. ENTE[illegible]PRISE 145A *
VFX
SCREECHES [illegible]out of WARP [illegible]NE and cruises slowly. Stalking.[illegible].

146 INT. BRID[illegible]E, USS ENT[illegible]PRISE 146

ON the ma[illegible]n visual [illegible]isplay, a star field. Kirk studies it, walk[illegible] over to [illegible]here Spock v[illegible]ews his SONAR. Kirk looks ov[illegible]r his sho[illegible]lder. Sp[illegible]ck is studying it intently.

VFXA OMITTED VFXA

* KIRK *
Close enough to beam down?

* SPOCK *
Not yet...Section 4236...

146 Nothing on the scanner. 146
VFXB VFXB

SPOCK
Section 4237...

Nothing. There's a lot of tension on the bridge.

146VFXC OMITTED 146VFXC *
THRU THRU
* 147VFX 147VFX

148 INT. CAMP KHITOMER CONFERENCE SITE - DAY 148

The POD DOORS are closed and the delegations seated.

UFP PRESIDENT
We are gathered here today in high hopes, believing that differing civilizations of good will can work together to overcome intolerance.
(CONT'D)

(CONTINUED)

12

148 CONTINUED: 148

UFP PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
We believe that with understanding and patience it will be possible to resolve what separates us. Let us redefine progress to mean that just because we CAN do a thing it does not necessarily follow that we MUST do that thing.

APPLAUSE.

UFP PRESIDENT
(continuing)
We believe that the responsibility for destiny rests squarely on our own shoulders...

There's that KLINGON FACE again, looking around. He's carrying some sort of SUITCASE...

149 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE 149

KIRK
She's here - somewhere.

CHEKOV
But if she's cloaked...

KIRK
Then all we've got is a neutron radiation surge - and by the time we're close enough to record it, we're ashes...

SPOCK
Captain, perhaps we're going about this the wrong way; our job is to get to the conference; HER job will be to stop us.

KIRK
Make ourselves a target?

Spock looks at him.

KIRK
(continuing)
Shields. Battle stations.

CHEKOV
(reads the display)
Shields up. Battle Stations.

(CONTINUED)

149 CONTINUED: 149

They are bathed in emergency RED LIGHT. Alarms SOUND.

KIRK
Mr. Chekov, take us forward, thrusters only, one half impulse power...

CHEKOV
Aye, sir; thrusters...

It feels like walking on eggs.

KIRK
Uhura?

UHURA
Nothing, captain. If they're here, they're rigged for silent running.

SPOCK
If she fires she has a perfectly valid excuse. We're a renegade ship coming dangerously close to two heads of state during a vital interstellar conference.

BONES
Thanks for sharing that, Spock.

Dead silence, then a CRASH OF NOISE!

150 INT. CAMP KHITOMER CONFERENCE SITE - DAY 150

APPLAUSE for the President's speech! Now Chancellor Azetbur rises to take her opening remarks.

The KLINGON FACE makes eye contact with ADMIRAL DONALD, who nods discreetly. The BRIEFCASE starts moving...

151 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE, ENGINE ROOM, ETC. 151

as before. CLOSE UPS various faces, sweating...

SUDDENLY AN EXPLOSION! The SHIP shudders, hit! CLAXONS!

152 VFXA EXT. VIEW OF ENTERPRISE WIDEN TO REVEAL 152 VFXA

INT. CLOAKED BIRD OF PREY

featuring the ENTERPRISE onscreen. They are rigged for silent running - no one is making a sound.

Their bridge is bathed in GREEN light...

Chang stands next to the GUNNER.

(CONTINUED)

152 VFXA CONTINUED: 152 VFXA

He points towards ENTERPRISE, nudges the man, who nods, hits controls...

152 VFXB Another torpedo sails off and explodes against the shields of the ENTERPRISE... 152 VFXB

153 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 153

Kirk and his crew grab hold of things, tight-lipped...

BONES
This is fun...

CHEKOV
Captain, shall we attempt to return fire?

KIRK
At what, Mr. Chekov?

WHAM! Hit again. Everyone goes flying...

153 VFX Instinctively Kirk looks at the main display - sees nothing. 153 VFX

KIRK
Scotty, reverse engines. All astern, half impulse power. Back off. Back off!

154 VFX EXT. SPACE 154 VFX

The battered Enterprise reverses field, backing away from nothing.

155 INT. BIRD OF PREY BRIDGE 155

155 VFX watching this maneuver. 155 VFX

CHANG
(very soft)
What's she doing?

The HELMSMAN shrugs. Chang nudges him to follow...

156 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 156

The empty starfield.

KIRK
What's she waiting for?

(CONTINUED)

156 CONTINUED: 156

SPOCK
Probably trying to figure out why we're reversing, wondering if we detect her.

CHANG'S VOICE
(filtered)
I see you, Kirk.

All REACT.

KIRK
Chang...

CHANG'S VOICE
(filtered)
Be honest, Captain - warrior to warrior: don't you prefer it this way? As it was MEANT to be? No p[illegible]ce IN OUR time. "Once more into the breec[illegible], dear friends..."

SPOCK
(looks to Uhura, who nods)
Keep him talking -

KIRK
(hits the comm)
Our ti[illegible] is over, Chang. [illegible] stand still for the likes of either of us. Chang...?

CHANG'S VOICE
(filtered)
"There's a divinity that shapes our ends, Kirk, rough hew them how we may..."

Kirk looks at Uhura, who shakes her head in frustration.

KIRK
Rough hew them how we MAY, for Christ sake...I thought you knew this stuff...

UHURA
They're moving around too much...

156 VFX ON the main visual display, where attention is riveted - a flare from black space. 156 VFX

CHEKOV
Incoming.

157 OMITTED 157

158 INT. ENGINE ROOM 158

The "SHIELD" LIGHTS flicker as the room RECOILS...

SCOTTY
She canna take much more of this, Captain...

159 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 159

CLOSE ON KIRK

reacting. Don't I know it.

KIRK
Sulu, where the Hell are you?

160 VFX EXT. SPACE 160 VFX

EXCELSIOR warping as fast as she can...

161 INT. EXCELSIOR BRIDGE, SHAAAAKINNNG 161

SULU
In rang[illegible]?

HELMSMAN
Not yet, Captain...

SULU
Come on, come on...!

HELMSMAN
She'll fly apart..!

SULU
Fly her apart, then!

161A INT. BIRD OF PREY BRIDGE 161A

CHANG
(watching)
"And this above all, Kirk: to thine own self be true..."

He nudges the HELMSMAN to FIRE again...

169 VFX EXT. SPACE 169 VFX

* Enterprise, SCREAMING through the void...by another SCREAMING SOUND in full pursuit... *

170 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 170

* All sweating by now... *

CHANG'S VOICE
(filtered)
* Oh by the way, Kirk, "How long will a man lie in space ere he rot?" *

* Uhura shakes her head in frustration... *

SPOCK
Keep him talking...

UHURA
They're moving too much to get a fix on.

CHANG'S VOICE
(filtered)
"Our revels now are ended, Kirk...

UHURA
What about heat...?

KIRK
Not from any real distance. She won't show up on ANY type of scan.

BONES
Too bad we can't SMELL her.

CHEKOV
In space, no one can hear you sweat.

CHANG'S VOICE
(filtered)
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, or to take up arms against a sea of troubles..."

KIRK
It's a pity Starships were never equipped with bloodhounds...

* WHAM! Hit again... Everybody grabs onto something as STEAM explodes from the ceiling and wiring tumbles out... *

(CONTINUED)

170 CONTINUED: 170

SPOCK
I don't think Starfleet could have envisioned our current predicament.

UHURA
Maybe we should write them a letter?

SCOTTY'S VOICE
Better post date it.

WHAM!... even harder this time...Spock thinks...

CHANG'S VOICE
(filtered)
"Hath not a Klingon hands, organs, affections, passions? Tickle us do we not laugh; prick us do we not bleed - and wrong us, shall we not revenge?"

SPOCK
Under impulse power she expends fuel like any other ship. We call it "Plasma" - I do not know its Klingon name, but by any designation it is merely ionized gas.

UHURA
Well, what about all that equipment we're carrying to catalogue gaseous anomalies?
(beat)
The thing's gotta have a tailpipe.

They look at each other like she's crazy. Then -

(CONTINUED)

170 CONTINUED: 170

BONES
Spock, let's you and me perform surgery on a torpedo - you never know...

SPOCK
I should be honored to assist you, doctor...

BONES
(he's been waiting all his life)
Fascinating...

They race out as the ship is HIT again. MORE STEAM!!!

KIRK
Mr. Chekov, slow down. Take us forward, thrusters only...

CHEKOV
Aye, sir; thrusters...

171 INT. KHITOMER CONFERENCE SITE - DAY 171

APPLAUSE for Azetbur's speech! Cartwright looks around. Sees THE FACE...nods discreetly...The UFP PRESIDENT applauds. He's vulnerable...the FACE moves off...

172 VFX EXT. SPACE 172 VFX

Enterprise moving slowly, alone. Beat. WHAM! Hit again.

173 INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDORS OUTSIDE THE LAB 173

Bones and Spock emerge with the bulky ATMOSPHERE SENSOR and run down the trembling corridor...

BONES
Bet you wish you'd stood in bed...

SPOCK
I see no profit in standing in bed, doctor - Vulcans sleep lying down...

For a moment Bones buys it - then, on their backs -

(CONTINUED)

170 CONTINUED: 170

BONES
(starts out)
I'm going to perform surgery on a torpedo - you never know...

SPOCK
(going with him)
You may need assistance, doctor...

BONES
(he's been waiting all his life)
Fascinating...

They race out as the ship is HIT again...

KIRK
Mr. Chekov, slow down. Take us forward, thrusters only, one quarter impulse power..

CHEKOV
Aye, sir; thrusters...

171 INT. KHITOMER CONFERENCE SITE - DAY 171

APPLAUSE for Azetbur's speech! Donald looks around. Sees THE FACE...nods discreetly...The UFP President applauds...he's vulnerable...the face moves OFF...

CinC Starfleet rises to speak, blocking the President...

172 EXT. SPACE 172
VFX VFX

Enterprise moving slowly, alone. Beat. WHAM! Hit again.

173 INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDORS OUTSIDE THE LAB 173

Bones and Spock emerge with a bulky HEAT SENSOR and run down the trembling corridors... * *

BONES
Bet you wish you'd stood in bed...

SPOCK
I see no profit in standing in bed, doctor - Vulcans sleep lying down... * *

For a moment Bones buys it - then, on their backs -

(CONTINUED)

173 CONTINUED: 173

BONES
Spock, that was actually funny.

SPOCK
We DO sleep lying down.

WHAM - they almost fall over.

* CHANG'S VOICE *
(filtered)
"I am constant as the Northern star..."

* BONES *
I'd give real money if he'd shut up.

174 INT. ENGINEERING, ENTERPRISE 174

Scotty and his men have obviously felt the impact as well. Some "SHIELD" lights are blinking off

SCOTTY
Captain, she's packing quite a wallop. Shields weakening.

175 EXT. ENTERPRISE 175
VFX VFX

scarred, trace lines of torpedo visible.

WIDEN TO REVEAL

175 INT. EXCELSIOR BRIDGE 175

Sulu, et al, watching.

SULU
Shields up. Tell them the Cavalry's here.

175A A torpedo flashes out at nothing... 175A
VFX VFX

176 INT. BIRD OF PREY 176

176 Chang watches it go by. Sees Excelsior as well 176
VFX as enterprise. VFX

CHANG
* So. "The game's afoot..." *

He points to Excelsior, nudges the gunner, who fires.

177 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE 177

177 They see Excelsior's shields take the torpedo HIT. 177
VFX VFX

* CHANG'S VOICE *
(filtered)
"Cry Havoc! and let slip the dogs of war..."

KIRK
Hold us steady, Mr. Scott. Ready to fire...Bones...!

Reactions from the battered CREW...

178 OMITTED 178

12

179 CLOSEUP 179

a hand opening a CASE: inside the disassembled parts of a rifle PHASER with telescopic mount. We don't know where we are exactly, but we can HEAR the CONFERENCE ECHOING - (corresponds with BOARDED MATERIAL #178). *

180 INT. ENTERPRISE TORPEDO BAY 180

Bones and Spock DESCEND ON THE TORPEDO LIFT WITH A TORPEDO, frantically trying to drill a hole in its nose to accommodate an ATMOSPHERE SENSOR as the whole bay TREMBLES with the hit...

KIRK'S VOICE OVER
Bones, where's my torpedo??

BONES
Me and my big mouth...

SPOCK
Calm yourself, doctor; the operation is almost complete...

BONES
One final twist...
Thank you, nurse. Jim, she's ready! Lock and load!

They jump off the lift and out of the way as the torpedo starts forward.

BONES
(continuing)
Pity they're retiring us just as I was starting to understand you, Spock...

SPOCK
(agreeing)
We WERE beginning to hit our stride together, doctor...

181 INT. ENGINE ROOM (FORMERLY ENTERPRISE BRIDGE) 181

We can see the SHIELD lights dimming...

SCOTTY
(frantic)
Shields collapsing...!

181 VFX Even as he speaks, the Bird Of Prey, fires at Enterprise. The photon trajectory is clear... 181 VFX

182 VFX EXT. SPACE 182 VFX

ENTERPRISE TAKES ANOTHER HIT...

183 INT. ENTERPRISE OFFICERS MESS (?) 183

NO SHIELDS this time! EXPLODES! WOW. AUTOTIGHT BULKHEAD DOORS CLOSE, PROTECTING THE VESSEL FROM SPACE EXPOSURE. SMOKE, LIQUIDS SQUIRTING EVERYWHERE... Things tumbling off shelves, out of overheads...DOORS WHOOSHING CLOSED!

184 INT. BIRD OF PREY 184

Chang smiles; this is more like it...he can see the Enterprise is damaged...

VFX OMITTED VFX

185 INT. CAMP KHITOMER - DAY 185

The HANDS assembling the special phaser...

186 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 186

KIRK
Fire!

CLOSE UP

a hand pushes a button.

187 CLOSE UP 187

another hand on a phaser trigger.

188 EXT. SPACE 188
VFX VFX

Enterprise's torpedo tracks through HEAT; it goes in a strange trajectory but then again we can't see what it's heading towards...

189 INT. BIRD OF PREY BRIDGE 189

189 As Chang watches in FASCINATION, the damn thing 189
VFX circles and heads right for them! He realizes... VFX

CHANG
..."or NOT to be..."

190 EXT. SPACE 190
VFX VFX

Enterprise fires a direct hit, and the Bird of Prey is illuminated in the firelight. She spins around, trying to regain her position, DEBRIS fragmenting...

191 INT. BRIDGE, USS EXCELSIOR 191

SULU
Aim for the center of that explosion and FIRE!

192 EXT. SPACE 192
VFX VFX

Excelsior and Enterprise, having trapped the "black hole" in a triangle between them, fire.

The Bird of Prey suddenly blows apart. As she explodes she DECLOAKS...

193 INT. CAMP KHITOMER - DAY 193

193 Kirk et al MATERIALIZE and starts running through 193
VFX masses of PEOPLE who are too startled to stop them... VFX

194 CU THE TRIGGER FINGER 194

tightening as...

...KIRK fights his way to the center of the room!

KIRK
Mr. President!

He flings his body on the President, pushing him out of the way, just as the phaser FIRES...

Panic in the room. PEOPLE SCRAMBLING -

ADMIRAL DONALD
Arrest those men!

SPOCK
Arrest yourself.

He stands aside to reveal Dr. SAAVIK in handcuffs.

BONES
We've got a full confession.

195 THE ASSASSIN'S NICK 195

he turns to run, but SCOTTY whirls and fires!

As all GASP, the ASSASSIN sways, falls off the balcony, clutching his face where the PHASER HIT, and SCREAMING...

The KLINGON FACE COMES MELTING OFF REVEALING

the STARFLEET OFFICER who prepared OPERATION "RETRIEVE". Not a Klingon, after all.

The other conspirators race for the EXIT, only to be blocked by

196 SULU 196

196 as he MATERIALIZES, phaser in hand - 196
VFX VFX

SULU
Just a minute.

The conspirators race in another direction: they are blocked by KERLA...and Bones -

KERLA
(slugs one)
And you.

197 PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS MOVE IN... 197

The UFP President stands up, stares with disbelief. So does Chancellor Azetbur.

CHANCELLOR AZETBUR
What's the meaning of this?

KIRK
It's about the future, Madam Chancellor. Some people think the future means the end of history.

Kirk walks up to the ROMULAN AMBASSADOR, now under guard -

KIRK
(continuing)
But we haven't run out of history just yet.
(remembers)
Your father quoted Hamlet; he called the future - "the undiscovered country".

SPOCK
I always assumed Hamlet was speaking of death.

KIRK
Gorkon thought the undiscovered country might mean something else - another kind of life. People can be very frightened of change. I know I was.

He walks to Saavik.

KIRK
(continuing)
There's an old expression: it takes one to know one.

(CONTINUED)

197 CONTINUED: 197

When Saavik looks at Kirk there are tears in her eyes. Spock stands motionless next to her. *

(CONTINUED)

012

197 CONTINUED: 197

He turns to face Azetbur.

AZETBUR
You've restored my father's faith.

KIRK
You've restored my son's.

PRESIDENT
Captain--my life is the least of what you have saved here today.

KIRK
I didn't do it alone.

... then slowly: APPLAUSE.... As people stand CHEERING and the NOISE GROWS DEAFENING, Kirk waves the rest of his team forward to take their bow in the glare of history: Spock, Sulu, Chekov, Scotty, Uhura, Bones...

198 EXT. SPACE 198
VFX Enterprise, her hull blackened with torpedo scars, idles next to the [illegible]UCH LARGER EXCELSIOR. VFX

199 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 199

They're back.

UHURA
They might as well arrest me, too; I felt like Lieutenant Saavik.

SPOCK
(pointed)
But you didn't join a conspiracy.

BONES
(half for Spock)
They don't arrest people for having feelings.

CHEKOV
If they did we'd all have to turn ourselves in. How CAN we rely on them?

KIRK
(looks at Spock)
The only way to find out if a man's trustworthy...

(CONTINUED)

199 CONTINUED: 199

SPOCK
...is to trust him.

A wintry smile.

SULU'S VOICE
Captain Kirk..?

KIRK
Kirk here.

012

199 VFX SULU APPEARS ON THE SCREEN. 199 VFX

KIRK
(continuing)
As much to the crew of Enterprise, I owe you my thanks, Captain Sulu.

SULU
Nice to see you in action one more time, Captain Kirk. Take care.

200 VFX EXT. SPACE 200 VFX

Excelsior gets underway with a roar.

201 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 201

all watch.

VFX OMITTED VFX

BONES
By God that's a big ship.

SCOTTY
Not so big as her Captain, I think.

KIRK
Time we got underway ourselves, gentlemen.

(S[illegible]tches)
Once again we've saved civilization as we know it.

BONES
And the good news is they're not going to prosecute.

* CHEKOV *
So - this is goodbye...?

* UHURA *
(winks)
We've been dead before.

KIRK
(sighs)
To be -

SPOCK
Or not to be -

BONES
That's the question -

(CONTINUED)

201 CONTINUED: 201

CHEKOV
Course heading, Captain?

KIRK
(smiles)
Second star to the right - and straight on till morning...

012

202 EXT. SPACE 202
VFXA VFXA

The battered Enterprise makes way.

KIRK'S VOICE OVER
Captain's log, U.S.S. Enterprise, Stardate 8769.24. This is the final cruise of the Starship Enterprise under my command. This ship and her history will shortly become the care of a new generation. To them and their posterity will we commit our future. They will continue the voyages we have begun and journey to ALL the undiscovered countries, * boldly going where no man...where * no ONE has gone before.

202 The signature William Shatner scrawls across 202
VFX the screen, still featuring the moving VFX
starfield. Then Leonard Nimoy's, then DeForest Kelley's, James Doohan's, George Takei's, Walter Koenig's, Nichelle Nichols' ...one by one...

The signatures grow smaller and smaller as the galaxy races by, and they disappear into the distance.

ROLL END CREDITS

FINIS